

**WEEKEND**

**SPORTS CLINIC**

**ANGLES ON**

# **SEA ANGLING**



# FISHING THE COAST OF BRITAIN

This round-Britain guide will show you at a glance what sort of fish you can catch in any locality. The key to the map is below.

- A Bass
- B Bream, black
- C Bream, red
- D Bull-huss
- E Coalfish
- F Cod
- G Conger
- H Dab
- J Dogfish, lesser-spotted
- K Spur-dog
- L Haddock
- M Hake
- N Halibut
- O Ling
- P Monkfish
- Q Plaice
- R Pollack
- S Pouting
- T Skate, thornback
- U Skate, common
- V Shark
- W Tope
- X Tunny
- Y Turbot
- Z Whiting

DEFGHJKRTUW

CDEF  
GJKO  
RSVW  
XYZ

ACHILL

CAHIR  
CAVEEN

ACDEFG  
JKNORS  
UVWYZ



All the towns marked on these two maps are good centres for fishing.

BUNDORAN

SCARBOROUGH

ADEFGHK  
JQSTWXZ

DFH  
JKQ  
STZ

BLACKPOOL

ABDFGHJ  
KQRSTWZ

DFGHJK  
QSTWZ

DUBLIN

DFGJ  
KPQR  
STWZ

LLANDUDNO

SKEGNESS

HTWZ

BARMOUTH

HUNSTANTON

CROMER

ADEFG  
HJKQ  
STWZ

ROSSLARE

ABDEF  
GHJKQ  
RSTWZ

LOWESTOFT

BALLYCOTTON

ADEF  
GHJK  
RSTWZ

FISHGUARD

DFGHJ  
KQST  
WZ

KINSALE

ACDEFGJK  
NORSUVWYZ

ADFGHJKQSTZ

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

MARGATE

ABDF  
GHJK  
QSTYZ

RAMSGATE

DOVER

FOLKESTONE

DUNGENESS

DFG  
HJK  
QST  
WZ

ADEFGHJ  
KQRSVZ

LITTLEHAMPTON

NEWHAVEN

HASTINGS

EASTBOURNE

ABDF  
GHJK  
PQRS  
TWZ

BDFG  
HJKP

NEWQUAY

LOOE

TORQUAY

WEYMOUTH

VENTNOR

DARTMOUTH

SALCOMBE

POWEY

FALMOUTH



# ANGLES ON

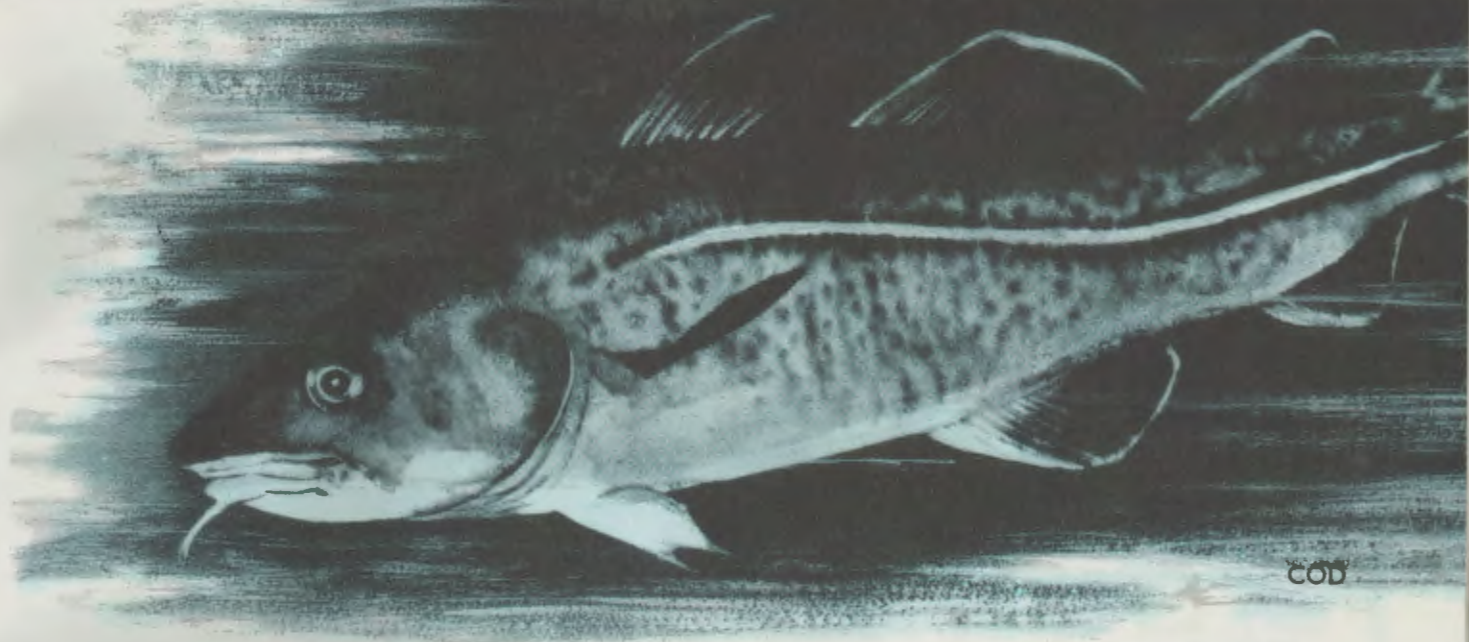
## SEA ANGLING

### CAPTAIN S. NORTON-BRACY

Weekend's angling expert is one of the most knowledgeable men in the fishing world. He has been an angler since boyhood and he is an expert at practically every kind of fishing there is all over the world—from roach-fishing in the Lincolnshire fens, to sharking in the Pacific, salmon-fishing in Iceland, or wreck-fishing for conger eels off Dover.

He is especially interested in sea angling, and he won the European sea angling championships when they were held at Stavanger in Norway in 1962. He is chairman of the European Federation of Sea Anglers, a body which looks after the interests of anglers in 17 countries. He is also an international representative for the British Isles to the world's largest angling body the International Game Fish Association, which has its headquarters in Miami, Florida.





# THE LURE OF SALT WATER FISHING

**O**NE of the great beauties of sea fishing is its complete lack of any formality and red tape. You don't have to bother your head about rod licences, fishery officers, or getting permission from anyone before you start.

There are no close seasons for sea angling. You can fish when you like and pretty nearly anywhere you like.

Another reason why sea fishing has such a fascination for anglers like Sydney Norton-Bracy, is the tremendous variety of the fish. The best most coarse fishermen can hope for is a tussle with a 40 lb. or 50 lb. pike. At sea you can go fishing for flatfish for the pot—or tope, if you feel like having a go at a member of the shark family. Or you may even land up with a 200 lb. skate on the end of your line.

# What to put on your hook

**FOR** going after conger, tope, or skate, a whole side of fresh mackerel or herring is the sort of bait Captain Norton-Bracy uses. For smaller fish, use strips of mackerel or herring, or there are plenty of baits you can find along the sea shore. Here are a few . . .

**SHORE CRABS:** Soft crabs are best. Find them among the weed in pools or on the rocks. Strip off legs and shell if it is not soft. Good for almost any fish.

**PRAWNS:** Live in rock pools. Good for spinning for bass. Can be fished alive or dead. For most fish.

**SAND-EELS:** Silvery with a green back. Scrape them from the sandy ridges along the low-tide line. Good live-bait for pollack, bass, mackerel, flounders.

**LUGWORMS:** Dig them from sandy or muddy beaches. They throw up casts. For flatfish, bass, codling and whiting.

**MUSSELS:** Pick them off rocks or breakwaters. For flatfish, whiting, cod.






# FISHING FROM PIER and BEACH

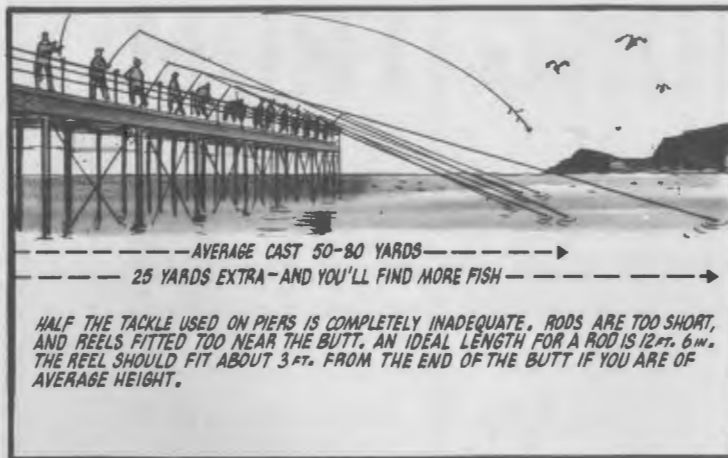
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**Skill in casting can help to improve your  
'luck' when there are other anglers about**



**W**HEN you are fishing from a pier, or from a beach where there are a lot of other anglers, the farther out you can cast, the more likely you are to catch fish. The continual bump of weights hitting the bottom, close in to the pier, and the jangling of paternoster booms, are enough to scare away any worthwhile fish. So try to out-cast all the other anglers.

There is no doubt that most beach or pier fishermen could, with the right equipment, increase their casting distance by 25 per cent. What you need is better stance, and this calls for correctly-balanced tackle. With multiplier or



fixed-spool reels, anyone can reach a minimum of 100 yards. You will find heavy rods tiring: the ideal is a glass-fibre rod of 12 feet to 13 feet. The line should be 16 lb. to 27 lb. breaking-strain nylon. A 4 oz. weight is heavy enough to take the line out without causing it to over-run.

When you get a "bird's-nest," the reel is revolving faster than the line is running out and the result is a tangle. How does it happen? The most frequent mistake when casting is to use too much effort. A smooth 180-degree cast is enough to get your weight to its maximum distance without the worry of an over-run. Make sure that

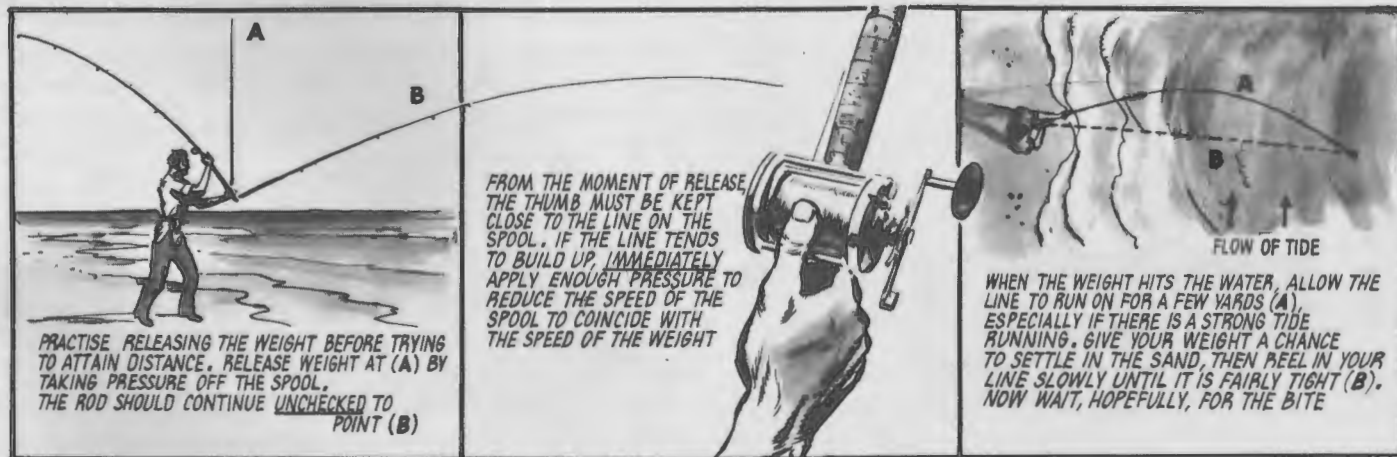
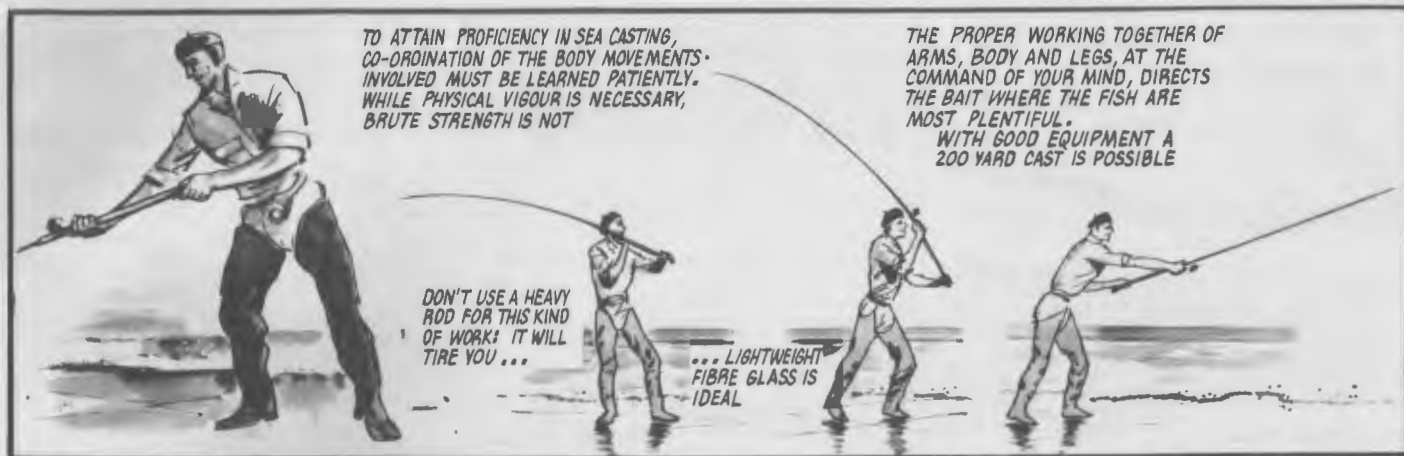
the line is free from knots and the spool is filled to capacity. Keep these rules—and you will *still* occasionally face the "bird's-nest" nightmare. But not so often.

Where can you find fish along the beach? Look for the places where there are ample supplies of food.

Holes and gullies in the sea-bed provide fish with well-stocked larders. With long-distance casting, many new feeding places are now within reach of anglers.

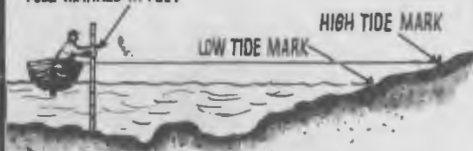
The way to find them is to make your own chart of the sea-bed. Anglers using this system





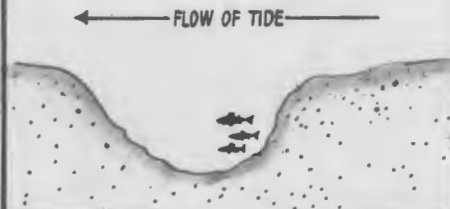
## FINDING THE FEEDING GROUNDS...

POLE MARKED IN FEET



TAKE AN ESTIMATED LENGTH OF CAST ON A LINE. ANCHOR THIS FIRMLY AT THE WATER'S EDGE AND GO OUT TO THE END OF THE LINE. MEASURE THE DEPTH OF WATER WITH YOUR POLE, AND WORK YOUR WAY INSHORE, MAKING MEASUREMENTS AT REGULAR INTERVALS. BY MOVING ALONG THE SHORE YOU WILL SOON HAVE A COMPLETE CHART OF THE WATER. DON'T FORGET THAT A HOLE OR GULLY IN THE SURF AT LOW WATER CAN BE A FEEDING GROUND AT HIGH WATER

HOLES AND GULLIES PRODUCE BETTER FISHING BECAUSE, WITH A STRONG TIDE SWEEPING ALONG THE COAST, THE FLOW PASSES OVER THE TOP OF THESE SHELTERED AREAS. SMALL FISH AND OTHER TINY MARINE ANIMALS SHELTER THERE, ATTRACTING THE BIG FISH WHO FEED ON THEM.



WHEN THERE ARE ROCK FORMATIONS, CHECK CAREFULLY FOR GULLIES WHICH RUN DIRECTLY OUT TO SEA. REMEMBER, ALWAYS CAST ON THE LEE SIDE OF THE ROCK



YOU HAVE TO BE TOUGH TO GO IN FOR BEACH FISHING. WITH BITING WINDS AND FLYING SPRAY, ONE CAN QUICKLY BECOME CHILLED TO THE MARROW

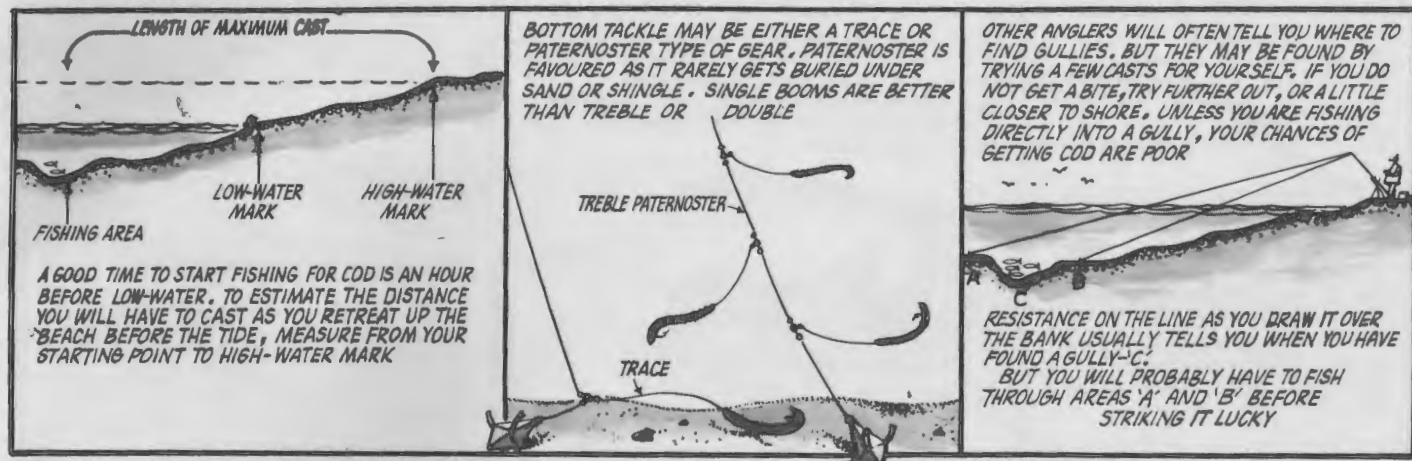
TACKLE: 12 FT. FIBRE-GLASS ROD, WITH 7 RINGS, INCLUDING THE LARGE ONE ON THE BOTTOM JOINT. BUTT SHOULD BE FROM 3½ TO 4 FT. WITH MULTIPLYER REEL FITTED 3 FT. FROM BUTT END



ALTHOUGH IT IS EASY TO GET YOUR BAIT OUT TO THE FEEDING GROUNDS AT LOW WATER, LONG-DISTANCE CASTING WILL BE NEEDED AS THE TIDE COMES IN.

THE FEEDING GROUNDS OF THE COD ARE IN GULLIES BELOW LOW-WATER MARK. THEY WORK THEIR WAY ALONG THESE IN SEARCH OF FOOD





## COD

have in one day taken out hauls of cod weighing more than 100 lb. The illustration shows you how to make your own map of the sea-bed with little effort.

## COD

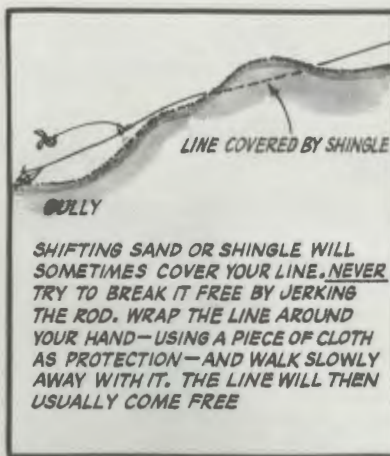
**T**HERE are plenty of cod in the sea—let's go after them. While the peak time for cod is between October and March, I took the biggest cod I ever caught in April. It weighed 28 lb. And that was at Looe in Cornwall—much farther south than most people expect cod. In the winter cod



**BETTER  
BE  
SAFE...**

**WHEN you go boat fishing, remember that the Ministry of Transport safety regulations do not apply to boats under 15 tons and which do not carry more than 12 passengers. So check that the boatman has adequate life-saving equipment aboard.**





SHIFTING SAND OR SHINGLE WILL SOMETIMES COVER YOUR LINE. NEVER TRY TO BREAK IT FREE BY JERKING THE ROD. WRAP THE LINE AROUND YOUR HAND—USING A PIECE OF CLOTH AS PROTECTION—AND WALK SLOWLY AWAY WITH IT. THE LINE WILL THEN USUALLY COME FREE

WHEN A COD HAS BEEN HOOKED AND PLAYED UNTIL IT IS TIRED, START BRINGING THE FISH IN THROUGH THE WAVES AS THEY ROLL SHOREWARDS. IMMEDIATELY A WAVE BREAKS AND THE WATER STARTS TO RUN BACK, STOP REELING UNTIL THE NEXT WAVE COMES IN



IF YOU HOOK A BIG FISH WHEN YOU ARE ALONE, HOLD THE TIP OF THE ROD AS HIGH AS POSSIBLE WHEN THE FISH IS SWEEPED IN WITH THE WAVES. AS THE WATER RETREATS, FOLLOW IT DOWN THE BEACH AND GAFF QUICKLY, USING A LONG-HANDLED GAFF

COD

## LANDING A FISH

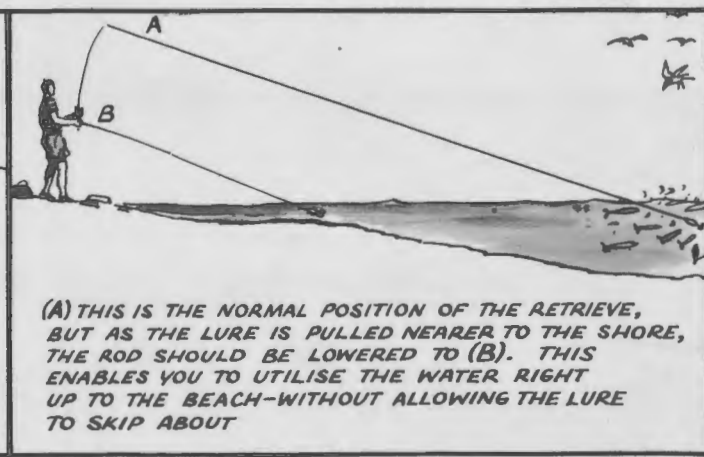
FOR boat-work or fishing from a beach, a gaff is useful—and often essential—for landing your catch. Otherwise you might lose your fish in hauling it up the side of a boat, or in the undertow of a strong surf.

For fishing from piers, however, unless you have a gaff with a long enough handle, a landing net on a line is better.

leave their northern feeding grounds and gather in great numbers down the East Coast, right round to Eastbourne in the south. Two particularly good places for cod fishing are Deal and Dungeness, both in Kent.

When fishing an area with a strong flowing tide, it is essential to keep your bait in position once it has been cast—otherwise you will get black looks from your neighbour as you drag his tackle ashore.

A light nylon line with a streamlined weight attached to it is often sufficient to hold against the tide. If it is not, add a weight with spikes to



MACKEREL

act as an anchor. A wire boom will stop bait tangling with the weight. I think a single boom is enough.

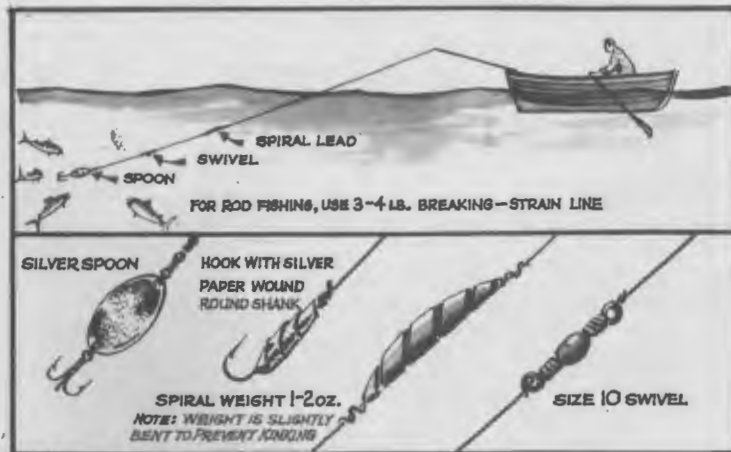
Angling would not be such a fascinating sport if it did not have so many problems. The challenge is the attraction. For example, when a heavy surf is pounding the beach, it requires skill to land a big cod. Every effort should be made to tire out the fish before attempting to bring it through the waves. Watch out that the undertow does not carry it back.

And if possible, try to have a second person standing by to gaff the fish once it is on the beach.

## MACKEREL

**F**OR the late holiday-maker, fishing from the beach or pier for mackerel can be good fun. These fish can be detected by the disturbed surface of the water as they pursue their prey, small fish like whitebait, and by the sea birds which hover overhead.

The best tackle? First, a rod capable of casting a small lure 30 to 40 yards off-shore. A trout rod is excellent. Then you need a small fixed-spool reel and weighted lure of a couple of ounces. Mackerel are attracted by spinners or silver-spoons—or any brightly-coloured lures.

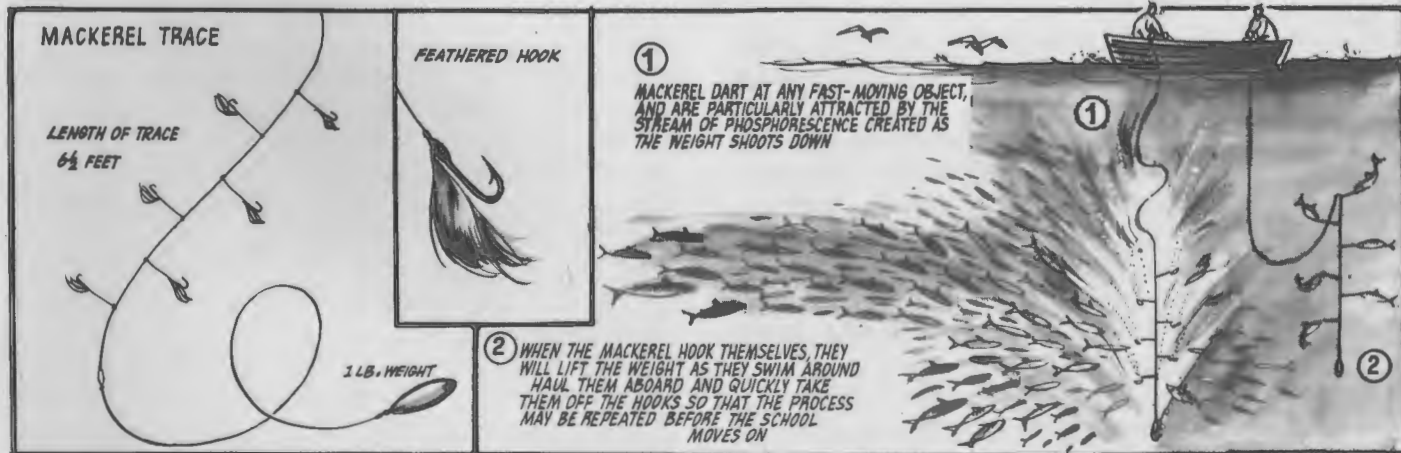


LINE COILED NEATLY  
IN STERN OF BOAT

WOODEN FRAME FOR  
HOLDING LINE

HAND-LINES SHOULD BE HEAVIER AND OF LINEN, OR OF CUTTY HUNK. WHEN HAND-LINING ALWAYS HAVE A CLEAR SPACE IN THE STERN OF THE BOAT SO THAT YOU CAN COIL THE LINE DOWN AS IT COMES IN. OTHERWISE YOU ARE BOUND TO GET TANGLES AND DELAY

## MACKEREL





# FISHING FROM BOATS

*When catching a big fish  
like this, fresh bait is  
often essential — and one  
good bait is mackerel*

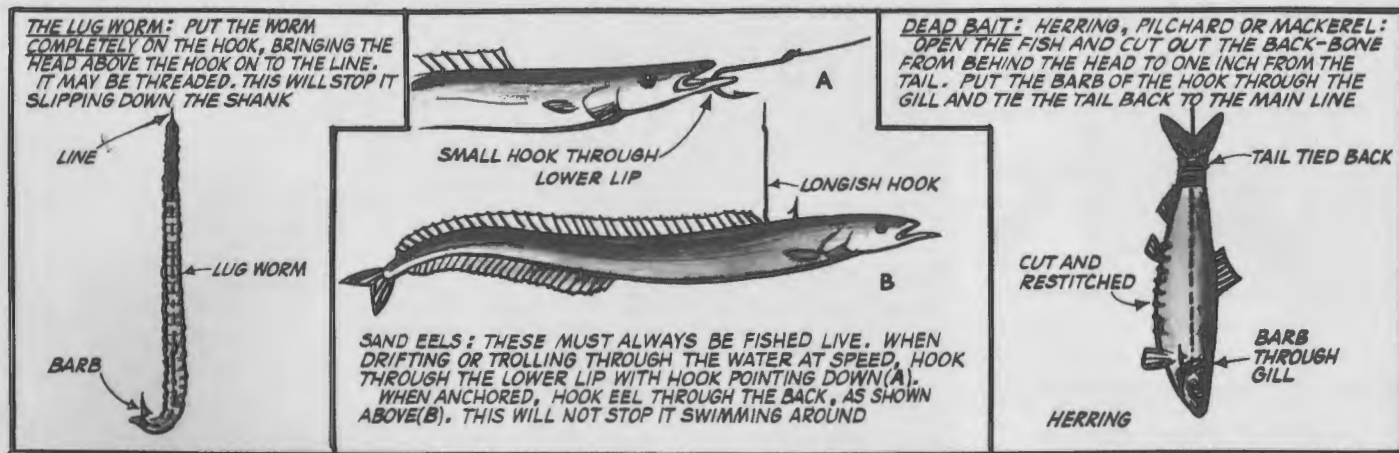


**I**F you find yourself near the sea on a fine day, why not have a go at mackerel fishing from either a rowing boat or motor boat? If you don't have a rod, try a hand-line — you'll probably get a bigger catch anyway — but mackerel fishing with a light spinning rod is great sport. For bait use either a spinner, silver spoon, or hook with silver paper wrapped round the shank. Don't row too fast — try to make the lure look like a small fish darting along.

The deep-sea angler is mainly interested in catching mackerel for use as fresh bait, for bigger fish. To catch as many as possible quickly,

use a string of feathered hooks, set at right-angles to the main line on short "snoods" to stop them curling round the line. Feathers are brightly coloured, red and yellow being especially deadly. When fishing for bait rather than sport, a hand-line is best, fitted with a heavy weight so that the feathers plummet quickly to the bottom.

Once you have your bait, the next problem is presenting it in the most alluring way. It is essential to make the bait appear as lively as possible. This will greatly improve your chances of getting a bite. When food is scarce, the size of your bait makes little difference. But at other



times it is best to tempt fish with large pieces of bait.

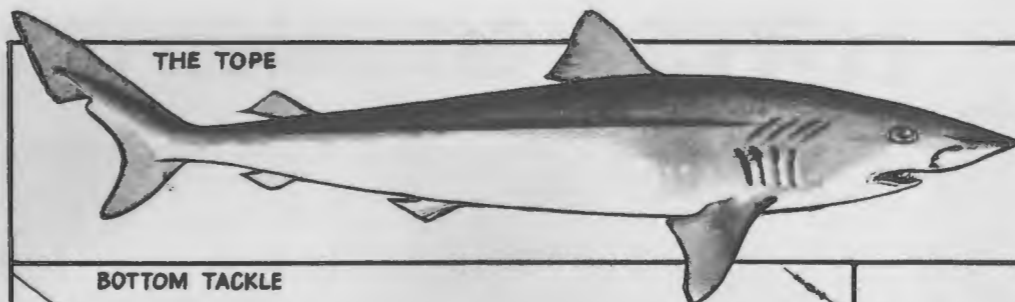
## TOPE

**J**UNE is a good month for boat fishing for tope. The tope is a roamer which prefers feeding on sandy bottoms. Hunstanton, in Norfolk, the South-East coast from Ramsgate to the Isle of Wight, and the North Wales coast are all good areas. The best tope fishing is usually found a few hundred yards off shore. Best tackle is a light glass rod, a multiplier reel, with a 20 lb. breaking-strain line.

You have more chance of catching a big fish if you present your bait in a life-like way. The slightest drag of a weight will often make the tope drop the bait. To avoid this, the running boom is moved up the line about 30 ft. and a matchstick is made fast below the boom, as in the illustration. This allows the bait to work freely in the tide and, with your reel out of gear, there is no resistance when a fish takes the bait.

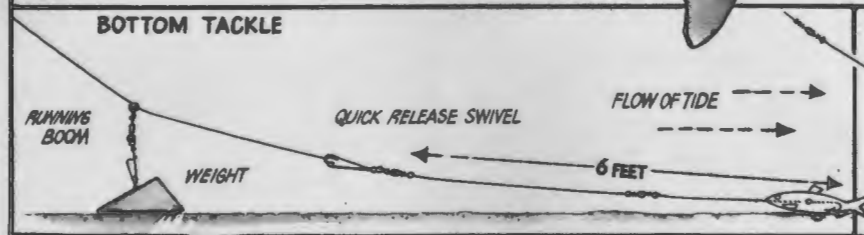
When hunting for food, tope more often than not work their way along gullies where smaller fish shelter from the run of the tide. They

Turn to Page 21



THE TOPE

FRESH BAIT IS ESSENTIAL - DABS, WHITING, HERRING, OR MACKEREL. TO BAIT HOOK, THREAD TRACE THROUGH THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF FISH FROM POINT A TO POINT B, LEAVING BARB OF THE HOOK PROTRUDING AT B. TAKE A FEW TURNS OF COTTON AROUND THE NOSE OF THE FISH AT POINT A TO HOLD BAIT IN POSITION AND GIVE IT A MORE NATURAL LOOK

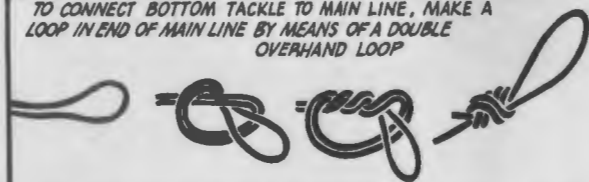


BOTTOM TACKLE

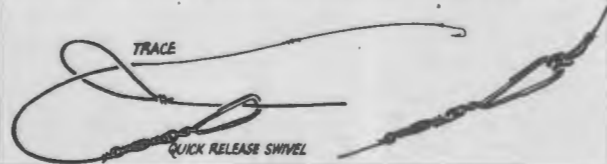


TOPE

TO CONNECT BOTTOM TACKLE TO MAIN LINE, MAKE A LOOP IN END OF MAIN LINE BY MEANS OF A DOUBLE OVERHAND LOOP



PASS LOOP THROUGH EYE OF RUNNING BOOM, THEN THROUGH EYE OF QUICK RELEASE SWIVEL. NEXT PASS ENTIRE TRACE THROUGH EYE OF LOOP AND PULL TIGHT. THE RUNNING BOOM IS NOW FREE TO MOVE UP THE LINE



HOLDING THE RUNNING BOOM AND WEIGHT IN YOUR HAND, PAY OUT 30 FEET OF LINE AND FIX MATCHSTICK BY MEANS OF TWO HALF HITCHES (CLOVE HITCH) BELOW BOOM



LOWER UNTIL WEIGHT IS HOLDING ITS POSITION ON THE BOTTOM. PUT REEL IN FREE GEAR WITH RATCHET ON, THEN REST ROD ON GUNWALE OF BOAT, MAKING SURE THAT AT LEAST TWO THIRDS OF THE ROD IS IN THE BOAT. OTHERWISE THE ROD COULD BE PULLED OVERBOARD



TOPE



# FIVE FIGHTING FISH



**TUNNY:** You wouldn't think it but tunny are really giant mackerel. They are caught off Scarborough, up to about 850 lb. This fine tunny weighed 617 lb.



**SKATE:** These flatfish are found all round Britain. The common skate grows up to 9 ft. when measured from "wing-tip" to "wing-tip."




**BLUE SHARK:** This is one of the most common sharks found off the Cornish coast. It grows up to 25 ft. and can weigh up to 250 lb.

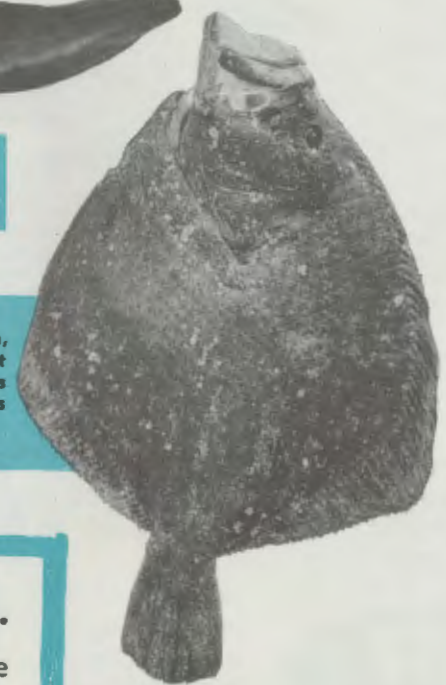


# -AND ONE FOR THE POT

The turbot can give you quite a tussle, and it's good to eat, too!




**CONGER:** This fighting eel likes to haunt wrecks and rocks. One of 160 lb. has been reported, but 70 lb. is good.



**TURBOT:** A tasty flatfish, found mainly off the west and south coasts. It likes shallow water, and it grows up to 25 lb. or 30 lb.

## FOR FRESHMEN...

It's the most up-to-date guide on fresh water angling... get *Angles on Fresh Water Angling*, by Captain S. Norton-Bracy, a companion book to this one. Price 2s. 6d., from all news-agents and booksellers.



**TOPE:** It fights like a shark and, in fact, it comes from the same family as the blue shark. A good tope is around 40 lb., but they have been caught over 70 lb.



LINE RUNNING OVER  
THE MIDDLE FINGER



FLOW OF TIDE  
→

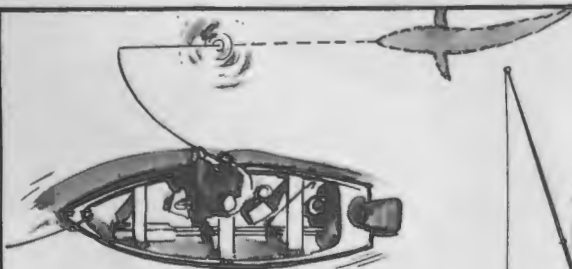
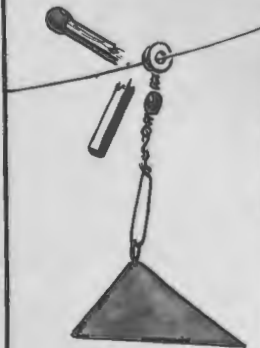


AT POINT **A** THE TOPE SEIZES THE BAIT AND RUNS TO POINT **B** WHERE IT SWALLOWS IT. IMMEDIATELY THE LINE STOPS RUNNING PICK UP THE ROD AND PUT THE REEL INTO GEAR. TAKE THE LINE BETWEEN THUMB AND FOREFINGER AND OVER THE MIDDLE FINGER TO GIVE YOU MORE POWER WHEN STRIKING, WITHOUT HAVING TO PUT ON TOO MUCH BRAKE. WHEN THE FISH MOVES OFF FROM POINT **B** STRIKE HARD AT POINT **C**



TOPE

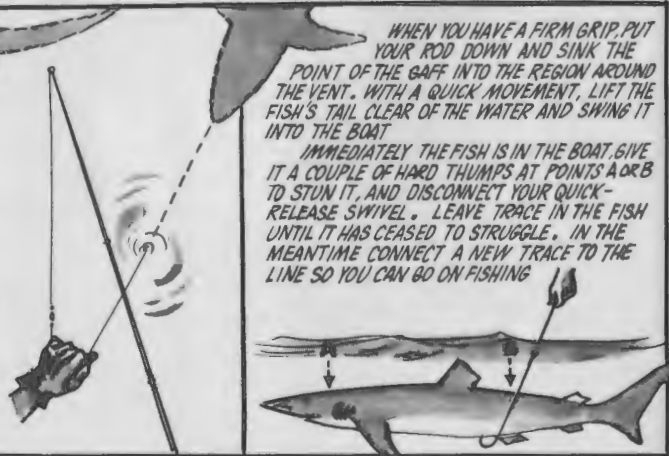
MATCH-STICK BREAKS AND  
RUNNING BOOM IS RELEASED



PLAY FISH TOWARDS YOU UNTIL THE ROD IS POINTING FORWARD, AND THE FISH IS ALONGSIDE THE BOAT AND ALMOST LEVEL WITH YOU. HOLD ROD IN YOUR RIGHT HAND AND GRASP THE WIRE TRACE NEAR THE SWIVEL WITH YOUR LEFT HAND

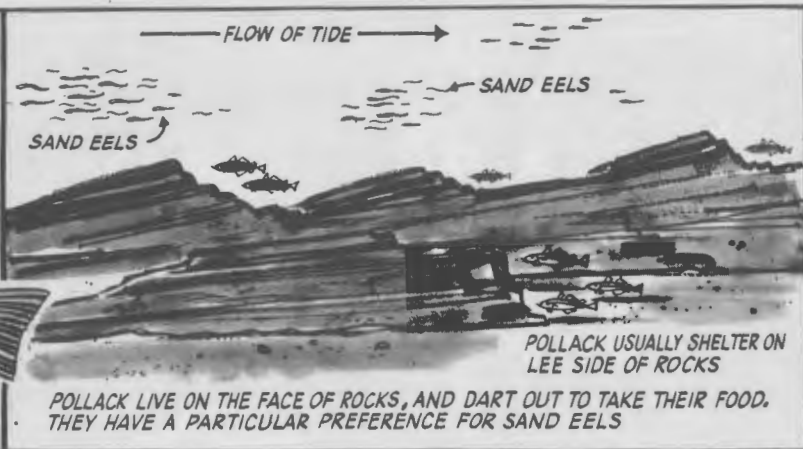
WHEN YOU HAVE A FIRM GRIP, PUT YOUR ROD DOWN AND SINK THE POINT OF THE GAFF INTO THE REGION AROUND THE VENT. WITH A QUICK MOVEMENT, LIFT THE FISH'S TAIL CLEAR OF THE WATER AND SWING IT INTO THE BOAT

IMMEDIATELY THE FISH IS IN THE BOAT, GIVE IT A COUPLE OF HARD THUMPS AT POINTS A OR B TO STUN IT, AND DISCONNECT YOUR QUICK-RELEASE SWIVEL. LEAVE TRACE IN THE FISH UNTIL IT HAS CEASED TO STRUGGLE. IN THE MEANTIME CONNECT A NEW TRACE TO THE LINE SO YOU CAN GO ON FISHING





THE POLLACK IS EASILY RECOGNISED BY ITS LONG UNDERJAW AND GOLDEN COLOURING. THE COALFISH IS SOMETIMES CONFUSED WITH THE POLLACK, BUT CAN BE DISTINGUISHED BY ITS DARK GREYISH-BLUE COLOURING



POLLACK

*Continued from Page 16*

invariably grab their prey—or your bait—across the back and swim with it in this position for up to 100 yards.

On this run, allow the tope to take the line freely. In fact, it is better not to touch the rod until the run ceases. During this pause, the fish swallows the bait and then is off in search of more. When you strike, don't apply too much pressure with the reel "drag."

At the moment of striking, the matchstick retaining the running boom will break, allowing it to slip down to the swivel. Never try to bring the fish to the gaff too quickly. Allow it to run,

keeping sufficient pressure on the line to tire it out. More fish are lost when gaffing than at any other time. It helps to have an old leather glove handy to slip on before grasping the trace.

## POLLACK

THE pollack is a fine fighting fish. It is nearly always found in rocky areas, especially in Scotland and South-West England. Fowey, in Cornwall, is a well-known area for pollack. Off Dodman Point, many 15 lb. to 20 lb. fish are taken every year.

A few fish are taken from anchored boats, but



# SOME RECORD CATCHES WITH ROD AND LINE

**CONGER** British record: 84 lb., taken by H. A. Kelly off Dungeness, Kent, in 1933.

**COD** 32 lb., taken by S. G. Hook, off Lowestoft, Suffolk, in 1945.

**MACKEREL** 4 lb. 8 drams, taken by Flight-lieutenant P. Porter, off the Isle of Man, in 1952.

**POLLACK** 23 lb. 8 oz., taken by G. Bartholomew, off Newquay, Cornwall, in 1957.

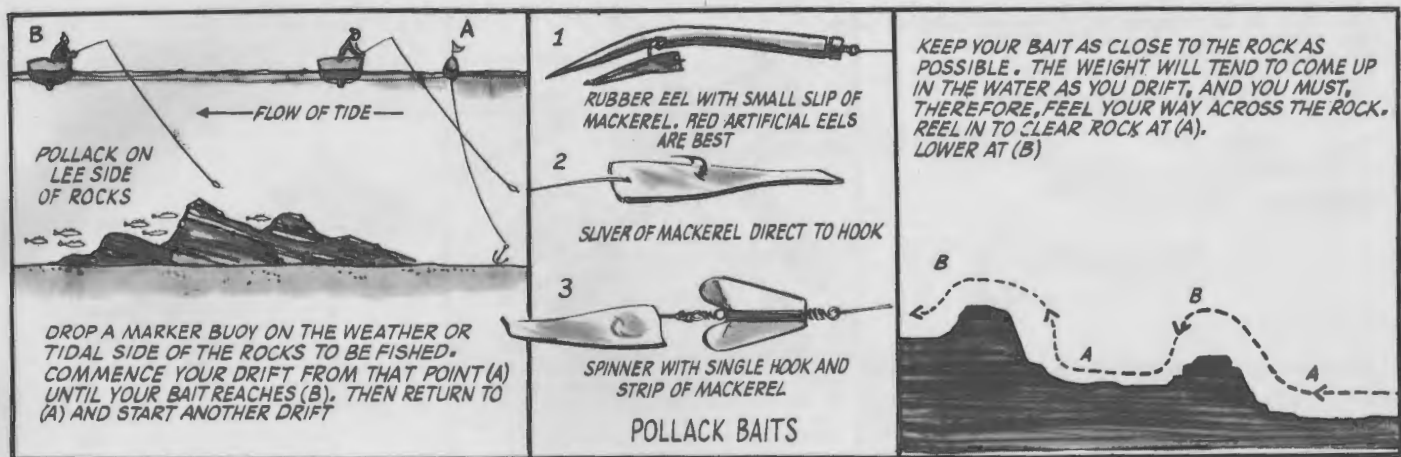
**MAKO SHARK** 428 lb. 8 oz., taken by J. E. Sefton, off Looe, Cornwall, in 1961.

**SKATE** 200 lb., taken by A. H. Bowker, off the Isle of Man, in 1925.

**TOPE** 73 lb. 3 oz., taken by L. Andrews, off Hayling Island, Hampshire, in 1949.

**TURBOT** 28 lb. 8 drams, taken by T. Tolchard, off Dartmouth, Devon, in 1961.

Fish as big as these may not be plentiful off the British coast, but there are still records to be broken.



it is far better to go after them in a drifting boat. For pollack are naturally cautious fish, and they are only interested in moving bait.

Although pollack prefer sand eels to other bait, there are several ways of attracting the fish to your hook when sand eels are not available — with artificial eels, slivers of mackerel or spinners. It is, however, essential, to use light tackle for pollack fishing—with never more than one hook. The art of catching these fish is to work your bait exactly as if it were alive.

Drift-fishing for pollack is excellent sport. You relax in your boat while it drifts slowly over the

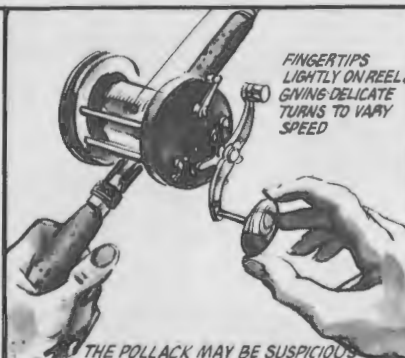
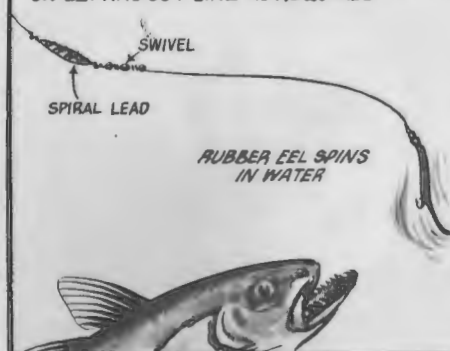
heavy rock formations on which the fish are found. When using artificial eels, I prefer a red one, attached to a 10-foot trace. However, it is a matter of choice. Some anglers think black or green rubber eels are best. The trace, in turn, is attached by a swivel to the main line. And a spiral weight is placed above the swivel.

## TURBOT

**O**NE of the most sought after fish in our waters is the turbot. Indeed, it is the only really big flatfish caught in any numbers round our shores. They are normally found around sand banks and

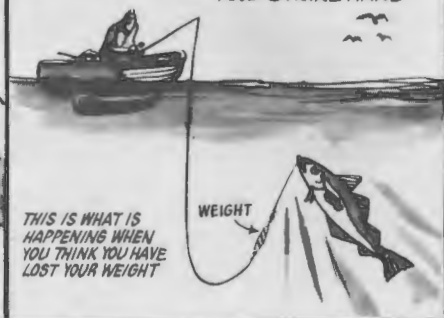


LOWER THE WEIGHT TO THE BOTTOM. RETRIEVE A FEW YARDS QUICKLY TO SAVE YOUR HOOK TANGLING IN THE ROCKS. WORK YOUR WAY ACROSS THE ROCKS RETRIEVING OR LETTING OUT LINE AS REQUIRED

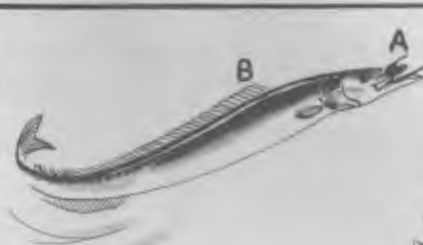


THE POLLACK MAY BE SUSPICIOUS OF THE BAIT AND WILL ONLY SNAP AT THE TAIL IF IT IS NOT MOVING AT THE CORRECT SPEED. BY KEEPING YOUR THUMB ON THE LINE, YOU CAN FEEL THIS SNAPPING AND THEN SPEED UP YOUR RETRAIEVE TO TEMPT THE POLLACK TO BITE

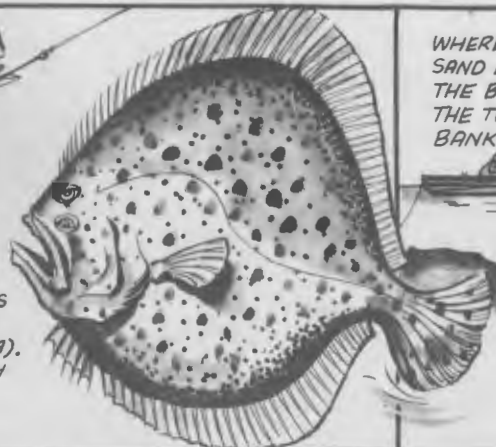
SOMETIMES YOU WILL THINK YOU HAVE LOST YOUR WEIGHT. THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE SPEED AT WHICH THE POLLACK COMES UP TO TAKE THE BAIT. REEL IN QUICKLY UNTIL YOU REGAIN CONTACT WITH THE FISH. THEN STRIKE, AND STRIKE HARD



POLLACK

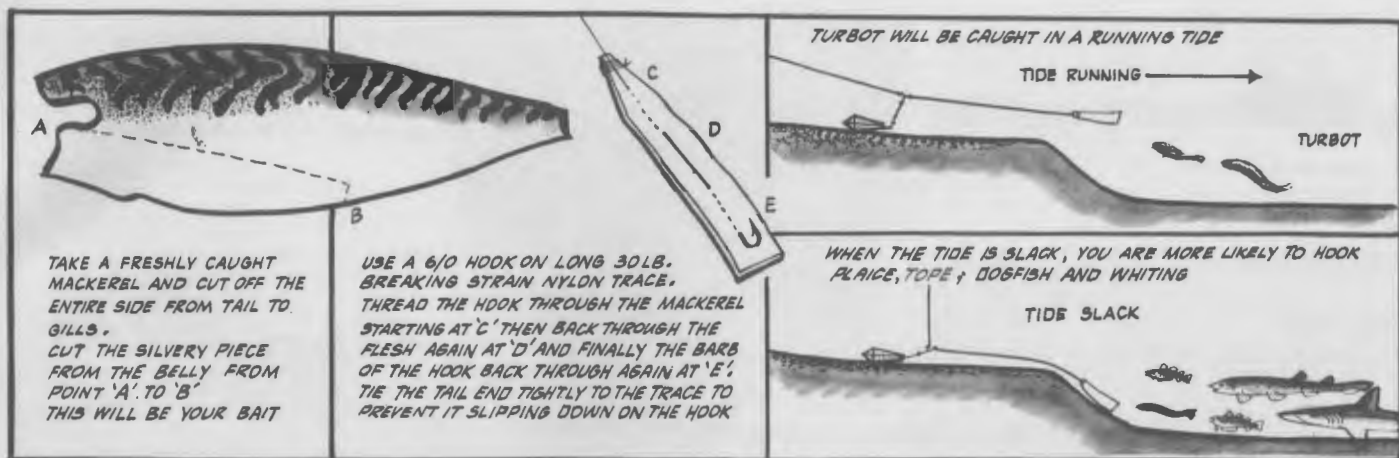


THE BEST BAIT FOR THE TURBOT IS A LIVE SAND EEL. IN FAST-MOVING WATER, HOOK IT THROUGH THE LIP (A). IN STILL WATER, HOOK IT THROUGH THE CENTRE OF THE BACK (B)



WHERE THERE ARE SANDBANKS, YOU WILL FIND SAND EELS — MORE OFTEN THAN NOT WHERE THE BANK SHELVES INTO DEEPER WATER. THE TURBOT WORKS ALONG THE FACE OF THE BANK, MOVING UPWARDS AFTER THE EELS

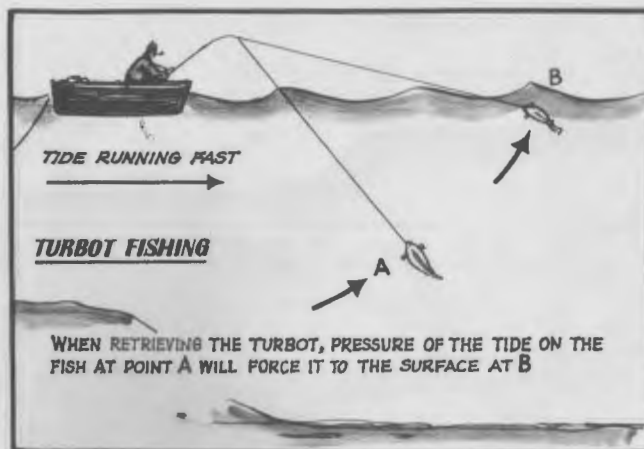




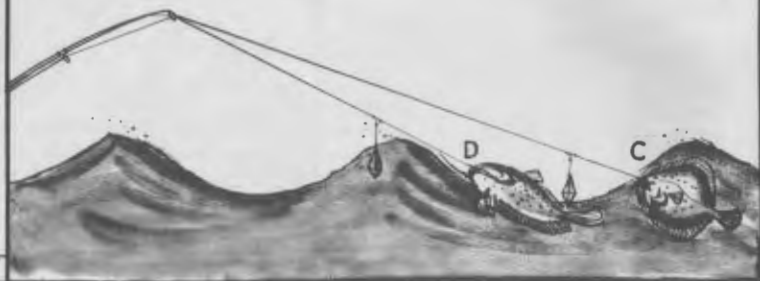
are at their best from spring to autumn. Two renowned turbot grounds are the Varne banks, off Dover, and the Shambles, off the Dorset coast. The Varne is heavily trawled by both British and French vessels, but, despite this, anglers still manage to catch great numbers of these fish.

Sand eels make fine bait for turbot. But if you can't get sand eels, it is possible to catch turbot with strips of mackerel, cut to resemble an eel. In a running tide, this bait is just as tempting as an eel if fished correctly. During slack water, however, when fish of all descriptions are nosing around, you may not get turbot. It is more than





WATCH THE WAVE MOVEMENT CAREFULLY. RETRIEVE ONLY WHEN THE FISH IS ON THE FACE OF THE WAVE TOWARDS YOU, C. IMMEDIATELY THE WATER MOVEMENT BRINGS THE TURBOT INTO THE TROUGH, D, STOP REELING IN AND WAIT UNTIL THE FISH IS AGAIN IN POSITION C. THIS METHOD WILL ENABLE YOU TO BRING THE TURBOT IN WITH THE MINIMUM RISK OF YOUR LINE SNAPPING



**TURBOT**

likely that your bait will be taken by plaice, tope, dog-fish or whiting.

With a flatfish as big as turbot, [it grows up to 30 lb. or more], it is difficult, in a strong tide, to bring it alongside the boat for gaffing. The strength of the flow may bring it to the surface some distance astern of the boat. Then, because of water pressure on the wide expanse of its body, you will find it difficult to bring it nearer. In a calm sea, it is not too hard to work the turbot along the surface. But when there is any kind of a lop on the sea, you must take care in retrieving your line.

## CONGER

**T**HESE are probably the most vicious fish found in British waters. They are immensely powerful and can do severe damage to both tackle and the angler, unless handled with extreme care.

Conger are usually found among rocks or in wrecks. They appear to feed on anything, whether it is fresh or stale. The best baits, however, are mackerel, pilchard, herring, black bream, pout and squid heads.

For conger fishing, a fairly heavy rod capable of taking 100 to 150 yards of 50 lb. to 80 lb.



**CONGER:** NEVER USE AN ANCHOR WHEN WRECK-FISHING — YOU WILL PROBABLY LOSE IT. USE EITHER BAGS OF SHINGLE, HEAVY ROCKS OR A GRAPNEL. THE GRAPNEL IS EASY AND CHEAP TO MAKE, AND WILL BE NO GREAT LOSS IF YOU DO LOSE IT.

**GRAPNEL:** THREE BENT SOFT-IRON BARS WELDED TOGETHER, WITH A RING AT THE TOP



IF EXTRA STRAIN IS PUT ON GRAPNEL, THE HOOK WILL BEND AND PULL FREE



DO NOT TRY TO CATCH CONGER UNLESS YOU ARE DIRECTLY OVER A WRECK. THEY LIVE INSIDE THE WRECKAGE, AND ONLY VENTURE OUT TO GRAB PREY

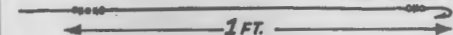
LOCATE YOUR WRECK, AND ARRIVE THERE ONE HOUR BEFORE THE TIDE EASES. DROP THE GRAPNEL 100 YARDS UPSTREAM AT 'A'. ALLOW THE BOAT TO DRIFT UNTIL THE GRAPNEL CATCHES ('B'). WAIT UNTIL THE TIDE SLACKENS ENOUGH FOR YOU TO HAUL THE BOAT IN ON THE GABLE TO 'C'. YOU CAN NOW FISH DIRECTLY INTO THE WRECKAGE



CONGER

SHORT WIRE TRACE

HOOK SIZE 3 OR 4



LONG WIRE TRACE QUICK RELEASE SWIVelled HOOK

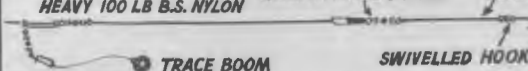


TO MAKE YOUR TRACE, TAKE A PIECE OF 100 LB. B.S. NYLON AND LOOP BOTH ENDS. PUT A 4/0 SWIVEL WITH A QUICK-RELEASE ON THE OTHER, PLACE A SINGLE TRACE BOOM ON YOUR MAIN LINE BEFORE MAKING THE LINE FAST TO THE SWIVEL ON THE NYLON TRACE. CONNECT THE SHORT WIRE TRACE TO THE QUICK-RELEASE SWIVEL

HEAVY 100 LB B.S. NYLON

QUICK-RELEASE SWIVEL

WIRE



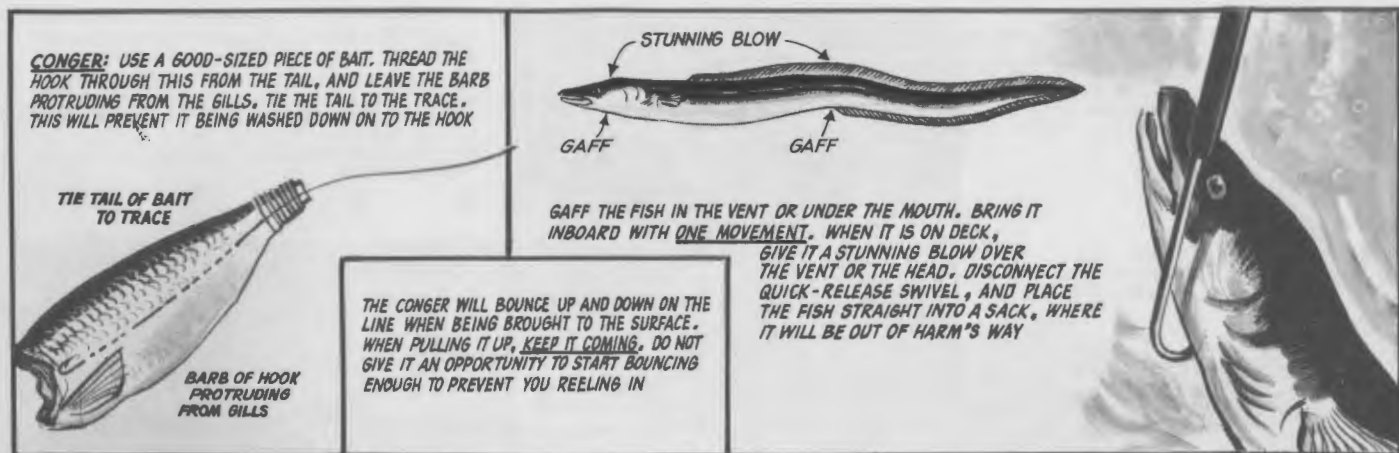
The CONGER



YOUR WEIGHT WILL OFTEN BE CAUGHT IN WRECKAGE. THEREFORE, INSTEAD OF ATTACHING YOUR WEIGHT BY THE LINK, TIE THE WEIGHT TO THE LINK WITH A LIGHT PIECE OF NYLON WHICH WILL BREAK EASILY IF THE WEIGHT IS SNAGGED. THIS WILL SAVE THE LOSS OF BOTTOM TACKLE AND CONGER



LIGHT NYLON LINK



CONGER

breaking-strain nylon line is essential. Unlike many fish, the conger does not swim around in mid-water, it glides along the bottom. When hooked, it dives into the nearest hole. This means your bottom tackle must be sturdy enough to withstand jagged wreckage and the conger's teeth. I prefer a heavy nylon trace, to which I fix a one-foot wire trace, but many anglers use wire traces at least six feet long.

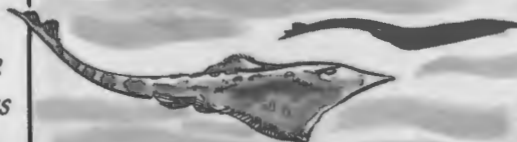
When the conger takes your bait, you will feel heavy thumps on the line. This is the conger shaking its head about. Do not strike at once, but let it get the bait well into its mouth. Strike when

the line tightens, a sign that the conger is moving away. When the strike is made make sure the fish has no slack line. Otherwise, it will dive straight for its lair and may even twine its tail round wreckage. If this happens, don't try to force it out. Wait until you feel movement, then try to ease it out. But handle with care!

## SKATE

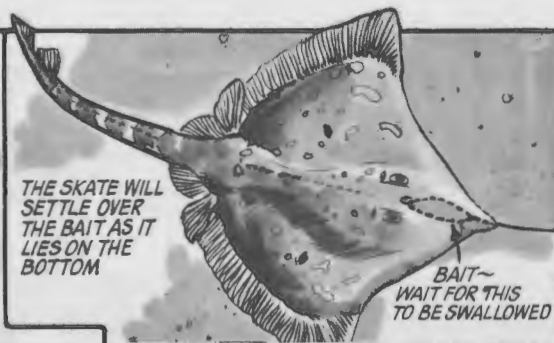
AT the risk of being accused of stating the obvious, let me begin by saying that there are skate—and skate. What is called the common skate is not, in fact, the most common skate found in British waters. The thornback is the

SKATE: THE COMMON SKATE IS USUALLY FOUND ON THE SEABED. IT WORKS ITS WAY INTO SAND OR MUD, BLENDING INTO THE BACKGROUND UNTIL ONLY ITS EYES ARE SHOWING. THEN IT WAITS FOR UNWARY FISH TO APPROACH



← FLOW OF TIDE →

THE SKATE WILL SETTLE OVER THE BAIT AS IT LIES ON THE BOTTOM



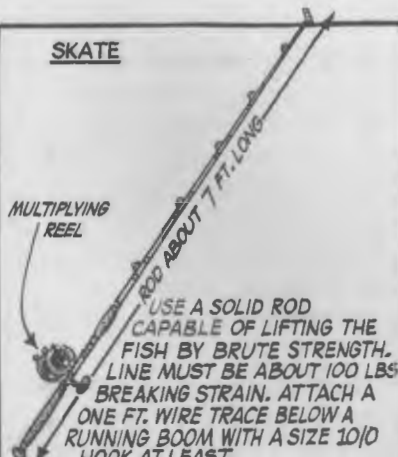
BAIT~  
WAIT FOR THIS  
TO BE SWALLOWED

SKATE ARE USUALLY FOUND IN PAIRS. THEY CAN MOVE AROUND IN THE STRONGEST TIDES~ AIDED BY THEIR ENORMOUS 'WINGS' AND SLENDER BODIES

BECAUSE SKATE SETTLE OVER THE BAIT BEFORE BITING, IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHEN THEY HAVE ACTUALLY TAKEN IT. ALLOW TIME FOR THE BAIT TO BE SWALLOWED. TOO QUICK A STRIKE WILL FOUL-HOOK THE FISH IN THE NOSE OR THE WINGS

SKATE

## SKATE



USE A SOLID ROD CAPABLE OF LIFTING THE FISH BY BRUTE STRENGTH. LINE MUST BE ABOUT 100 LBS. BREAKING STRAIN. ATTACH A ONE FT. WIRE TRACE BELOW A RUNNING BOOM WITH A SIZE 10/0 HOOK AT LEAST

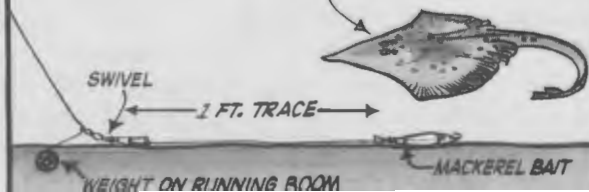
BAIT NEED NOT BE LARGE. I PREFER A WHOLE SIDE OF FRESHLY-CAUGHT MACKEREL. FIVE LB. COD HAVE BEEN FOUND INSIDE SKATE, SO THE SIZE OF BAIT IS REALLY UP TO THE INDIVIDUAL ANGLER

TAKE OFF ONE SIDE OF THE MACKEREL AND CUT OUT BACKBONE, LEAVING HEAD, TAIL AND EXPOSED FLESHY SIDE. THIS MAKES IT MORE TEMPTING TO THE SKATE



WHEN THE BAIT HAS BEEN LOWERED TO THE BOTTOM, ALLOW THE LINE TO WORK OUT THROUGH THE RUNNING BOOM, TO FORM A LONG TRACE. WHEN THE SKATE APPROACHES THE BAIT, IT WILL THEN SETTLE ON IT WITHOUT BEING DISTRACTED BY THE LINE

SKATE ABOUT TO SETTLE



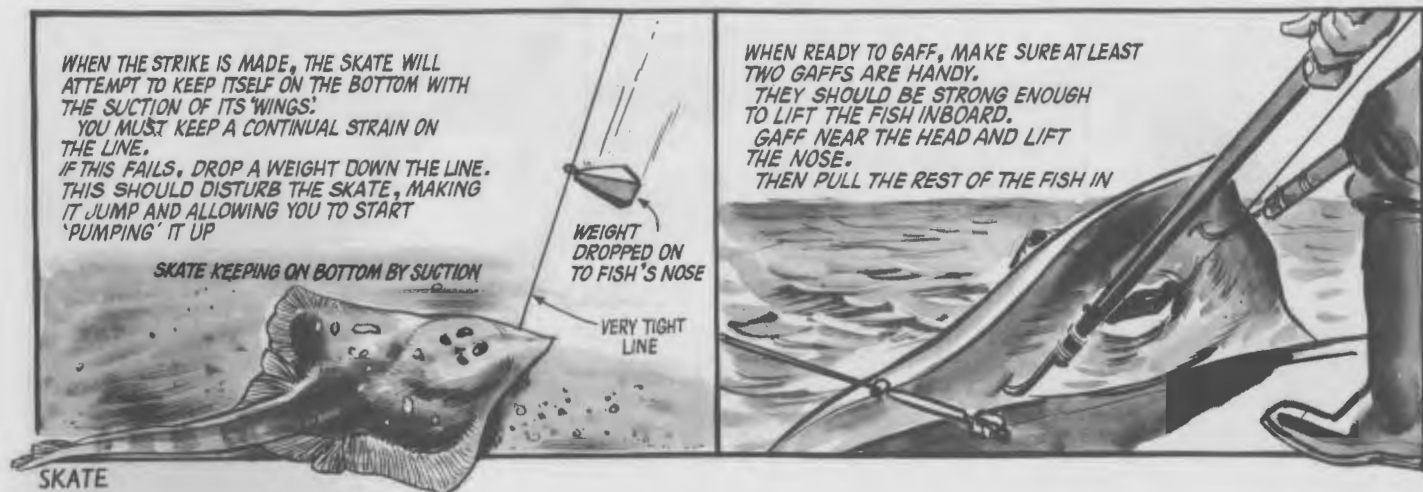
SWIVEL

1 FT. TRACE

WEIGHT ON RUNNING BOOM

MACKEREL BAIT





most plentiful and usually weighs between 12 lb. and 14 lb. But anglers have landed common skate weighing up to 336 lb. You can catch these monsters round the south-west coast, right the way up to the north of Scotland and all round Ireland.

When fishing for skate, remember that only the heaviest tackle will do to "pump" the really big fellows to the surface. In my opinion, a tackle harness is a "must," too, although I have heard of tough anglers who have landed large skate without this aid. All I say is jolly good luck to them. I certainly wouldn't be too keen on trying

it. Skate fishing is only for anglers with very strong constitutions. The weak man will be flat out in the bottom of the boat long before he has got a 200-pounder to the surface. There is little fight in the fish immediately it leaves the bottom, but once it nears the surface the amount of "pumping" you will have to do will leave you limp for an hour or more after.

## SHARK

**B**IG-GAME fishing may sound exotic, but you don't have to travel far to find it—or the next best thing. For in this country you can try a close

THE SHARKING GROUNDS LIE 10 TO 20 MILES OFFSHORE, THE BEST BEING NEAR LOOE, CORNWALL. ON GOOD DAYS UP TO 20 BOATS LEAVE LOOE IN SEARCH OF SHARKS



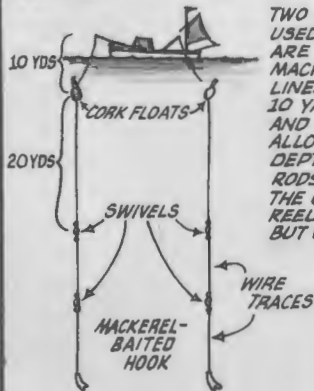
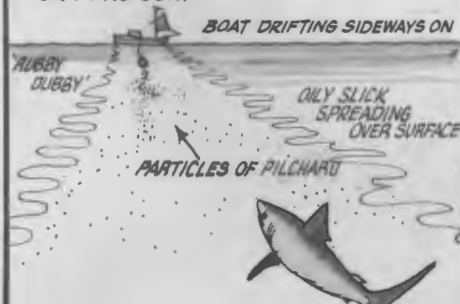
ON THE WAY OUT TACKLE AND BAITS ARE PREPARED. RODS MUST BE HEAVY, WITH A LARGE MULTIPLIER REEL, AND ANYTHING FROM 50 TO 100 LBS BREAKING-STRAIN LINE. THE TRACE MUST BE OF HEAVY WIRE, SWIVelled, AND WITH HOOK ATTACHED DIRECT



SHARKS ARE ATTRACTED TO THE BOATS BY 'RUBBY-DUBBY'—A COUPLE OF BUCKETS OF PILCHARDS, MASHED ALMOST TO LIQUID FORM, WHICH IS THEN PUT IN A FINE-MESHED NET AND TRAILED OVER THE SIDE

SHARK

THE SHARK MAY BE A MILE OR TWO AWAY WHEN IT FIRST SNIFFS THE TEMPTING 'RUBBY-DUBBY'. IMMEDIATELY IT WILL START WORKING ITS WAY ALONG THE TRAIL LEFT BY THE DRIFTING BOAT



TWO RODS ARE USUALLY USED ON EACH BOAT. HOOKS ARE BAIED WITH FRESH MACKEREL IF AVAILABLE. LINES ARE PAID OUT ABOUT 10 YARDS FROM THE BOAT, AND THE HOOKS ARE ALLOWED TO SWIM AT A DEPTH OF 7-10 FATHOMS. RODS ARE PLACED AGAINST THE GUNWALE, WITH THE REEL IN A FREE POSITION BUT WITH THE RATCHET ON

AS THE SHARK TRAVELS UP THE 'RUBBY-DUBBY' TRAIL, IT WILL SPOT A LARGER AND MORE SUCCULENT TITBIT — THE BAIED HOOK





THE SHARK WILL GO DEEP WHEN HOOKED. LET IT TAKE LINE OFF THE REEL, BUT KEEP TENSION ON THE DRAG TO WEAR IT DOWN. WHEN IT STOPS RUNNING, START 'PUMPING' IT TO THE SURFACE BY LOWERING THE ROD TO THE GUNWALE (DO NOT TOUCH IT) THEN RAISING IT AS HIGH AS POSSIBLE. ON THE DOWNWARD MOVEMENT QUICKLY REEL IN LINE. HOLD IT WHILE YOU LIFT THE FISH UPWARDS

BY KEEPING YOUR THUMB ON THE LINE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FEEL ANY EASING OF TENSION



WHEN THE FISH HAS TIRED, POSSIBLY AFTER TWO OR THREE RUNS, THE BOATMAN SHOULD GRASP THE TRACE WITH HIS GLOVED HAND AND PREPARE TO GAFF THE SHARK NEAR THE VENT. IMMEDIATELY THE GAFF IS PUT INTO THE SHARK, THE FISH MUST BE LIFTED SO THAT ITS TAIL IS CLEAR OF THE WATER. THEN DRAG IT INTO THE BOAT

approach to big-game fishing — shark fishing off the coast of Devon and Cornwall.

Three types of shark lurk off Cornish shores—blue, porbeagle and mako, which in our waters have been caught up to 428½ lb. But the most common is the blue. More than 5,000 are caught off the shark-infested coasts of Britain every year. It sounds thrilling, but there is little danger in shark-fishing in our waters.

To attract a shark to your bait you use "rubby-dubby"—a close-mesh net of mashed pilchards. Your boat will drift at two to four knots with the wind and the "rubby-dubby," hanging over the

side, will leave an oily slick on the surface. At the same time, a trail of tiny pieces of pilchard will be drifting through the water.

When the bait has been taken, make no effort to strike the shark. It will usually grab the bait, then make a run with it before stopping to swallow. Once the reel stops revolving, pick up the rod and hook it to your harness.

When the shark starts its second run, strike upwards as hard as you can. But you must be certain that there is not too much strain on the "drag" mechanism of the reel. The illustrations show how you "pump" the shark in.



Rich Dark Honeydew is a rare tobacco—it tastes the same the whole smoke through. Rich but never heavy. Cool but never dull. Its constancy is the result of careful, balanced blending; using only the finest matured Virginia tobaccos. Cool, slow burning Rich Dark Honeydew is blended to please the true pipe-man's palate. Try an ounce and see how it suits you.

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Keeps its true flavour  
the whole smoke through

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11/7 PER 2 OUNCES

# HOOK, LINE and SINKER

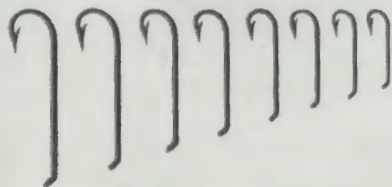
If you're going sea angling, it helps to have the right tackle for the job . . .



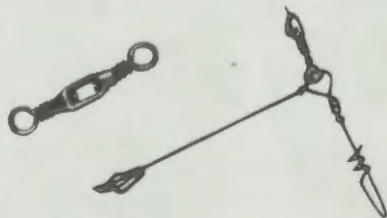
**SPIRAL** (left) and **torpedo leads** (right) are both useful. The rubber sand eel (centre) is a good lure for pollack. In various colours.



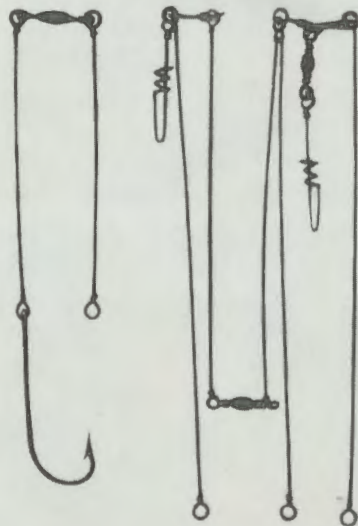
**ANCHOR** leads, with the wire prongs, and the round "grip" leads are to hold the bottom in strong tides and currents.



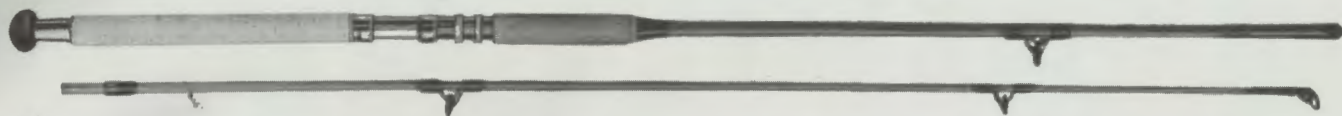
**HOOKS** come in many different sizes and with long or short shanks. Long shanked hooks are best for flatfish and whiting.



**SWIVELS** (left) are necessary to prevent the line from twisting and kinking. Right, trace boom.

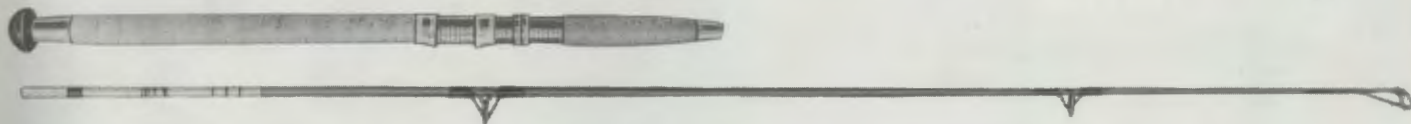


**TRACE** for tope or conger (left) is of 12-in. wire with Size 7/0 hook. Right, stainless steel spreader with three 9-in. booms.

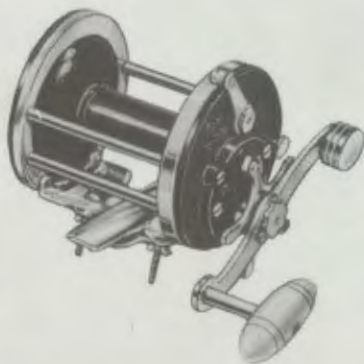


**PIER ROD:** This two-piece rod, the Milbro Monarch, is made of tubular fibreglass, and is specially designed for use on piers, beaches or from rocks. It is 9 ft. long.

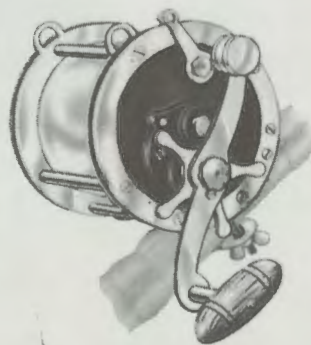
**BOAT ROD:** For boat work, a short rod is necessary. This 6ft. rod, Milbro Neptune, in solid fibreglass, was specially designed by Captain Sydney Norton-Bracy.



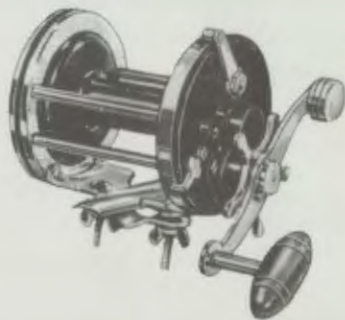
**FLOATS** for shark-fishing need to be about 3 ins. across, to take the weight of the bait, often a whole mackerel.



**PIER REEL:** The Penn Surfmaster multiplier reel carries up to 200 yds. of 36lb. breaking - strain line.

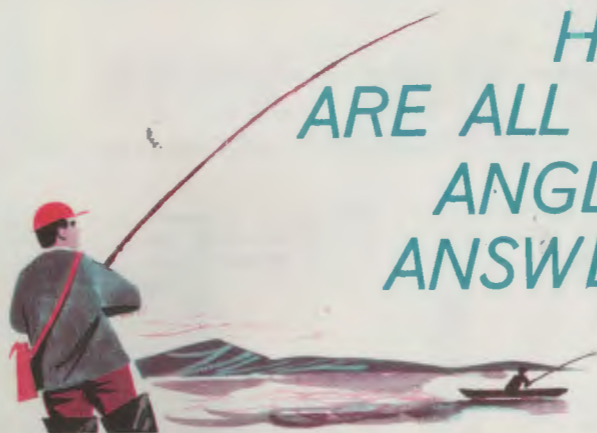


**BIG-GAME REEL:** You need a big reel for big fish. The largest Senator model carries 900 yards of 80lb. line.



**BEACH REEL:** This reel, the Squidder, is specially built for surf-casting. Its line capacity is up to 250 yards.





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