



SFSA Member Newsletter

December 2020

Message from the President



What a year 2020 has been, virtually no matches, travel limitations and Covid-19 restrictions that changed almost daily.

Whilst we haven't managed to meet you at competitions and on the beaches this year the Federation has been really busy behind the scenes representing angling alongside our partners from coarse and game in Angling Scotland. We have worked with SportsScotland, Scot Gov, and the other advisory bodies to be able to post guidance on where, how and when you can get back out fishing, hours of work go into these posts to make sure you are properly advised and following the restriction laws.

Within the exec we now have fully trained Covid -19 officers who are happy to be linked with our member clubs so that the clubs are fully compliant and meet Government legislation around all sporting groups.

You will see from the newsletter the conservation work being done, the junior development and the other areas where we are working on your behalf. If I have a criticism about the Fed its simply that we don't communicate enough to you all the work we are actually doing, most people see the media posts around the match scene but not the other work that gets done. This is something you will see changing as there will be regular newsletters from us over next year.

The species hunt has been a great success and is something we will repeat next year, everyone can get involved and add new fish to their catches. And we are giving a wee bit to charity.

With all the work we are doing and everything we have planned for 2021 we really need your support, both financially as members but also if you can you can give a little time and get involved with what we are doing.

In 2021, we want to really grow the membership so please talk about what we are doing to your mates when you are on the rocks and beaches, encourage them to take part. As members you not only benefit from the insurance cover but you are also doing a bit to help protect and grow our sport.

Have a great Christmas and happy new year and let's hope we can have a normal years fishing.

Tight lines,

Mike.



What's Happened in 2020

COVID-19



The Federation have been working extensively within the Angling Scotland Limited umbrella to ensure that sea angling could continue as far as safely possible during the pandemic. Numerous online meetings, written submissions and presentations have been made throughout 2020 to ensure the Scottish Government and all relative agencies had all the required information to ensure angling was one of the first activities to be allowed as lockdown restrictions eased.

Matching our own resource and expertise with those of our partner organisations under Angling Scotland resulted in a very hard fought result for angling in Scotland. We hope that we can continue to leverage the Angling Scotland group to achieve even more for Sea Angling in Scotland.

You can get the latest angling guidelines on the website- <https://www.anglingscotland.org.uk/>



Angling Scotland Limited



COVID-19

Conservation & Environment

“Our Seas”



The Federation are now active members of ‘Our Seas’ a coalition of organisations (including Ayr Sea Angling Club and SSACN) fighting for the reinstatement of the 3 mile limit to protect and enhance our inshore waters. Please have a look at the website, <https://www.ourseas.scot/> and have a look at their video, “The Limit” which is a really good watch.

They are currently running a petition and it would be great if you wanted to sign the petition and lend your support.

If you or your club would like to get more involved then please get in touch either through the Federation or the “Our Seas” website. If you can spread the petition and the Our Seas Coalition to other anglers, friends and family through any media you can ... Facebook, Email that would be very useful.



Conservation & Environment

Blue Fin Tuna

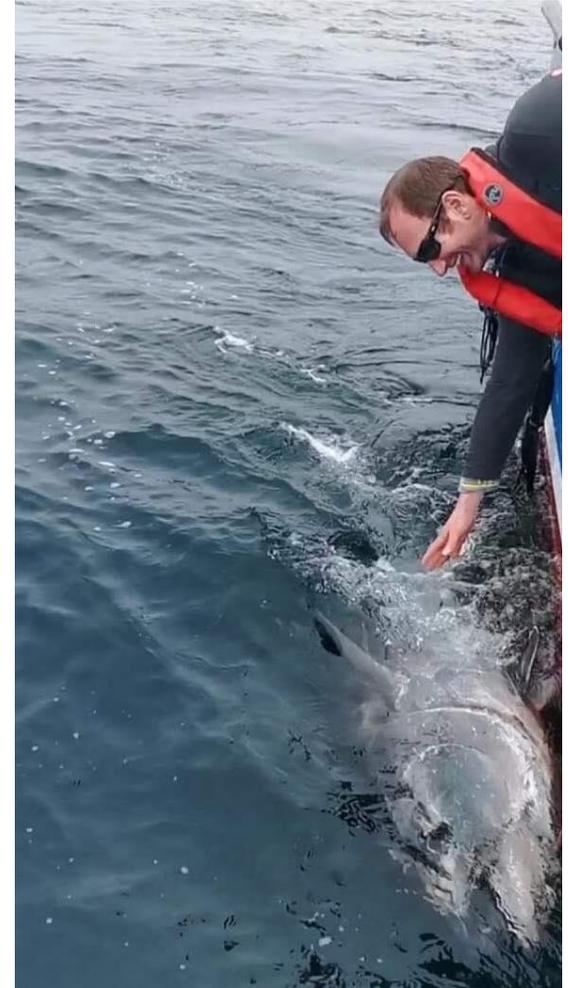


The Federation have been actively supporting the activities of Harris Development Limited in trying to get a derogation from Marine Scotland to allow a tagging programme supported by recreational anglers for Blue Fin Tuna in Scotland. We have been writing letters to Marine Scotland and Defra and joining various stakeholder meetings to show our support.

It was with delight that Harris Development Limited received their derogation in September of this year and despite COVID restrictions local boats have been out fishing off the West coast of Harris, successfully targeting these magnificent fish.

We hope that further derogations will be forthcoming over the next few years and the data gathered by the tagging programme will support a full recreational future in Scotland in the future.

If you are interested in future trips targeting Blue Fin Tuna from Harris you can contact Angus Campbell @ Isle of Harris Sea Tours- <https://www.isleofharrisseatours.co.uk/> .



Juniors



In anticipation of the Home Nations and World Championships in 2020 the juniors had a fantastic trip down to Norfolk in February to take part in the Joc Goudie International beach masters. The lads competed brilliantly over the 2 days and did themselves proud against some fine anglers landing good bags of dabs, whiting and rockling. In the junior section Ciaran Peck all the way down from Stornoway narrowly edged out Andrew Mclean to take top spot with Bruce Copeland taking 3rd spot. Andrew Mclean also took a 2nd place in his zone. Well done lads great fishing. We would like to thank Dene Conway, Scott McCartney and all the organisers for delivering another fantastically run match.



Unfortunately due to the pandemic the juniors International comps were cancelled for this year.

Big thanks go to Exec members Lindsay Wilson and Douglas Barclay who continue to invest a huge amount of their time to coach and manage the junior squad. In addition they have been actively organising and participating in fund raising events with the squad such as backpacking in their local stores.



Competitions

Species Hunt



With COVID putting a stop to our usual match circuit, the Federation looked to organise something which would encourage anglers out and about and generate some money for charity at the same time. A shore species hunt was just the ticket.

So far a fantastic 57 different species have been caught with Bruce McLean from Stranraer currently leading the way on 46 species to himself.

Common skate up to 177lb, double figure tope, huss, thornies, smoothhound along with all the Scottish species of wrasse and gobys caught, are just a few of the notable catches.

In addition £195 has been raised for our chosen charity "Erskine Veterans". We hope in 2021 with the continuation of the event we will be able to increase this figure.





Coming up in 2021

Conservation & Environment



The federation will be very busy pursuing a variety of conservation / environmental interests in 2021/ We only have a limited amount of time resource amongst our executive members but we hope to build upon some excellent work done over the previous few years. Our main areas of interest are likely to be;

Our Seas Initiative – We will be promoting and actively participating in the efforts of this group.

Blue Fin Tuna- We will be actively assisting in getting further derogations and engaging with associated organisations such as Marine Scotland.

Clyde Marine Planning Partnership- We will continue our active involvement in this group, attending meetings and making representations to further the interest of Sea Anglers.

The Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF) – This is a new government fund which the Federation are looking to engage with to facilitate investments in areas which would enhance sea angling in Scotland.

If there are further Conservation / Environmental issues which you think the Federation could / should be involved in then please get in touch and we will endeavour to do what we can do.

Juniors



With all the Juniors International events cancelled for 2020 it could have been a disaster for several for them as it was their last qualifying year. However, too much relief the governing bodies delivered an early Xmas present as they changed the rules for 2021 and they will all now be able to compete at the Home Nations in England in July and the World Championships in Ireland in October.

The squad along with Lindsay and Douglas will be putting in that extra effort this year to get prepared and do the best they can.



Shore Competitions



Although COVID restrictions are still in place and we don't know where we will be at in 2021, we thought it best to at least make provisions for a possible match calendar for 2021.

Something for us all to look forward to and fingers crossed the events below will be able to go ahead.

SFSA OPEN SHORE COMPETITIONS 2021

- 7 March - SFSA Cod Open - Arbroath area
- 10 April - SFSA Spring Open - Riverside Drive, Dundee
- 2 May - SFSA Open - Angus beaches
- 19/20 June - SFSA 2 Day Open - Riverside Drive, Dundee
- 18 July - East Fife Open
- 7 August - Individual Members - TBA
- 29 August - Clyde & West Open
- 26 September - SFSA Open - Erskine
- 3 October - SFSA Flounder Championship - Lunan Bay

Further dates will be added at a later date.



Boat Competitions



COVID restrictions have been tough on boat angling, however charter boats have been operating and some excellent catches have been had around the country. Excellent cod fishing in the North, some cracking skate on the West coast amongst much else.

It is hoped that in 2021 we will be able to get some boat competitions running again. The first provisional competition will be the West of Scotland Open on 27th March from Loch Etive. Details will be available on the Federation website.





2021 Memberships

Individual Memberships



Annual subscription to the Federation falls due for renewal on the 1st January 2021.

Benefits of Membership

- Ensure your voice is heard.
- Support our work to promote, grow and protect the sport of Sea angling in Scotland.
- Members enjoy PI insurance cover in case an accident happens.
- Opportunity to be involved in a pathway to international selection - juniors, youths, ladies or seniors.
- Access to sea angling coaches and potential for further education via UKCC qualifications giving opportunities to coach.
- Individuals members leagues and ability to qualify for Scottish teams.

Attached to this correspondence is a blank renewal form that you may complete and return if there are any changes to your personal information. Please send to sfsasecretary@googlemail.com. This form can also be used for new membership applications.

The annual subscription remains at £20 for senior members, £22 for families and £2 for juniors. There are different ways in which you can pay your subscription.

The preferred way and at least cost to the Federation is to pay your sub. directly into our account, the details are;

Name: The Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers

Sort Code 83-19-04

Account number 00754966.

Please remember to include your name and reference to membership if paying this way and please drop an email to sfsasecretary@googlemail.com to confirm.

You can also pay using Paypal (sfsasecretary@googlemail.com), Please remember to include your name and reference to membership if paying this way. OR by cheque made payable to 'Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers. These can be sent to; Alasdair Campbell, 2 Shodshill Mill Farm, Lanark, ML118NT.

OR visit the website at <https://www.sfsa.info/about-us> where you can fill out an online form and pay via PayPal.

Club Memberships



Annual subscription to the Federation falls due for renewal on the 1st January 2020.

Benefits of Membership

- PI insurance for the office bearers.
- Involvement in the Federations child protection and safeguarding processes and procedures.
- Support our work to promote, grow and protect the sport of Sea angling in Scotland.
- Access to sea angling coaches and potential for further education via UKCC qualifications giving opportunities to coach.
- Access to COVID-19 compliance trained officers.

Attached to this correspondence is a blank renewal form that you may complete and return if there are any changes to your club information. Please send to sfsasecretary@googlemail.com. This form can also be used for new membership applications.

The annual subscription remains at £50 per club. There are different ways in which you can pay your subscription.

The preferred way and at least cost to the Federation is to pay your sub. directly into our account, the details are;
Name: The Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers
Sort Code 83-19-04
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Please remember to include your name and reference to membership if paying this way.

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OR visit the website at <https://www.sfsa.info/about-us> where you can fill out an online form and pay via PayPal.

Obituary

Graham Forbes was a life member of the Federation and International competitor, very well known around the country and who had a true passion for angling throughout his life. He was probably best known on the boat angling match circuit where he was always brought a laugh and taught many an aspiring angler the tricks of his trade. He sadly passed away in October this year.

Bud McClymont was a life member of the Federation and a stalwart of our West of Scotland region, a Scottish International angler and a terrific ambassador for our sport. I'm sure all of you who knew Bud will have fond memories, he was always the life and soul of every gathering. He sadly passed in March this year.



Sponsors

A big thanks to our sponsors who continue to assist the Federation operate and also provide vital support to our International Teams.



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