

Diary of a day only Eel angler, Part 5.

When I wrote my 1st article, that's where it was going to end for me. As I had titled it, a season's catch in a day, it was a big hit to me! The 2nd session produced the 2nd article as it was such a contrast in that it was worms at 1st, this time it was deads. The 1st session, all runs were connected with, the 2nd, all but one were missed! Then came the 3rd article which revolved around a 6 fish catch but was part of 22 runs in 6 hrs! Every session was so different and in 6 sessions, I had taken 10 eels up to 2lb 4oz! They all centre round my target water but as I said before, I was only fishing it one a fortnight so what was happening with my other trips?

I have, since a kid, held a local club ticket. It hasn't really got any amazing waters on its book but it has been enjoyable catching fish that are special to me and to get on waters where I can learn new things. There have been the times when I have caught one carp all year but then there have been the times when something special has fallen on my lap, the most memorable fish being an unknown 15lb 14oz pike on a perch trip to one of the clubs lakes! It's the same lake where my eeling career started for me last year!

This pond is where I started my campaign this year. I did two sessions in horrible cold rain using sea baits at the end of March. I blanked good and proper. This pond had to be worth another visit though. A fine may day saw a friend and I back over there, him fishing for carp and me after my beloved Anguillas. I was using small freshly caught perch mainly but these were very hard to get hold of. I think we only caught about 4 all day! The Anguillas never materialised for me but another species did. I was wanging a dead over to some over hanging willows and keeping a one tight to my own bank. Within no more than 3 minutes, these deads were picked up by perch but not just tiddlers; they went 2lb 3oz and 2lb 5oz! They were huge perch and more proof to my theory of dead are no good for perch wrong!



It may not be an eel but at 2lb 5oz, it was very welcome.

Another pond on the ticket was one that I eel fish once the year before. I had 4 or 5 missed runs which were a good sign but it was very booty water. This doesn't matter to me though as my main target is to catch eels no matter what the size. When an Anguilla passion has been smodering for 15 years before you actually target the fish, a small one is so special. To be able to handle it and build confidence, it's all part of my learning curve. The day I got back on this water was overcast but fairly warm. Most of the runs came close to some snags on an island so I decided to start in the same area. 1st cast and one of my old friends, a perch hangs itself on my lobs. With a roach angler opposite me, I decide to move a swim up the bank so the island hides me and I can get a few small deads out without upsetting the other chap. It takes a while to get the fish going but along with the obligatory missed runs, I take 3 eels of 1lb, 1lb 13oz and my p.w. (personal worse!) at about 4oz. The bailiff turned up as I was about to rebait so I just put some Dendros on so it didn't look dodgy. This fish took the bait as he came back round after speaking to the roach angler and took the Dendros!

I put in a trip on my campaign water and ended up on the island lake due to the matches. More missed runs but I did take another 3 eels like peas in a pod at 1lb 15oz, 2lb and 2lb 1oz. Not huge but my 5th and 6th ever 2s so I'm well chuffed. These are a fairly good average for this pond so I wasn't complaining either way!



1lb 15oz, 2lb and 2lb 1oz. What a difference in colours!

A water was mentioned to me last year where this person reckoned they had taken 7 lb eels. Well, this person is full of nonsense but knowing the water and what it sometimes produces with regards to other species, it was stored in the back of my mind. While in work one day, an old colleague came in with her dad. Fishing and eels were mentioned and he came up with exactly the same pit on

exactly the same complex as the other person had mentioned and he too said they were monsters. The best thing was they loved a live and I don't think things can come anymore predatory than that!

I arrived at the pit thinking it was going to be rammed with weed as it was when I fished it a couple of winters ago. It was a proper eely paradise with not too much weed but plenty of features. I decided to get in a nice flat end swim that gave me plenty of water to go at and a couple of large lily beds. I get a Rudd out on the C.D. but it quickly perishes so end up using a small perch instead. The Rudd head section goes out on the J.S. to one of the lily beds. After a while with nothing happening, and it being very bright and sunny, I decide to try and cast tighter to the lily bed. I may not be good at some things, but I feel I am fairly good at accurate casting. This one leaves splash marks over the leaves. It does take long before a fairly jerky run gets the rollover going on its merry tip up. I connect and after a short but sprightly fight, in comes a lip hooked eel of around a pound.

Later in the day, the Rudd tail (from the same Rudd!) gets a short lift going horizontal but no further. I give it 10 secs, try and push it back down but there is resistance and after another odd couple of bleeps, I wind down and hit it. Unbelievably I connect yet again and the eel is a twin of the other fish.

On lifting out the keep net at the end of the session, they are like peas in a pod and almost identical! Not the huge fish I heard about but it proves there is potential and worth a return visit. It might also be worth looking at the other pond as it's proved successful at my campaign water. Who knows, there could be a 7 lurking in there!



Chance of a 7...?