

# National Sea Fishing Committee

From: Michael Hassen, Secretary to the National Sea fishing Committee  
 To: Members of the National Sea Fishing Committee  
 Subject: Results of the Shore Fishing survey  
 Date: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

---

The Committee will recall that at the last meeting the matter of how to score shore fishing competitions was discussed at length. It was agreed that there would be a survey of forces to ascertain views as to the best method for moving this matter forward in respect length v SAMF.

It is apparent that the matter is complicated with issues raised covering a range of issues such as:

- 1) Fish welfare – although whatever method used requires the fish to be measured.
- 2) Scores to be allocated to eels and dogfish.
- 3) How team and individual matches are scored
- 4) Whether zones with different numbers of anglers are fair.
- 5) Percentage scores versus allocating points to anglers in zones based on their points score for fish caught.
- 6) How individual winners are identified over 2 days, with particular concern that a good zone on the night fish can win the competition.

There were other points raised but the above clearly shows the range of issues which may need to be addressed by a decision of the Committee

The results of the survey are as follows;

Force	Representative	Date	Option
Avon and Somerset			
Bedfordshire			
British Transport Police			
Cambridgeshire	Richard Middleton	2.2.22	2
Cheshire			
City of London			
Civil Nuclear			
Cleveland			
Cumbria			
Derbyshire			
Devon and Cornwall			
Dorset	Iain Fryett	2.2.22	4
Durham	Kevin Woodcock	2.2.22	2
Dyfed-Powys			
Essex	Ian Hinchcliffe	17.3.22	0
Gloucestershire			

Wants to add a further option. Asked for an answer to the original proposals. Update 2.2.22 option 4

The group could not decide

Greater Manchester				
Gwent	No choice made	2.2.22		Gwent do not have a shore fishing section
Hampshire	Paul Gelman	3.2.22	5	
Hertfordshire				
Humberside				
Kent	Dean Graham	2.2.22	4	AGM 26.1.22 (18.1.22)
Lancashire				
Leicestershire				
Lincolnshire				
Merseyside				
Metropolitan				
Ministry of Defence				
Norfolk	Ian Hinchcliffe	1.2.22	4	26.1.22 picked 3 and 4 asked for one 29.1.21
North Wales	Stephen Watts	2.2.22	6	
Northamptonshire				
Northumbria	Peter Morgan	26.1.22	2	
North Yorkshire				
Nottinghamshire				
PSNI				
Scotland	Gregor Hay	17.1.22	7	
South Wales				
South Yorkshire				
Staffordshire				
Suffolk	Steven Aylott	5.2.22	2	
Surrey				
Sussex				
Thames Valley				
Warwickshire				
West Mercia				
West Midlands	Don Campbell	2.2.22	7	
West Yorkshire				
Wiltshire	James Tucker	19.1.22	8	

The total number of votes cast was 12 with one further abstention and one force not having a sea fishing section.

Votes for:

Option 1 (SAMF)	0
Option 2 (SAMF)	4
Option 3 (SAMF)	0
Option 4 (SAMF)	3
Option 5 (SAMF)	1
Option 6 (Length)	1
Option 7 (Length)	2
Option 8 (Length)	1
No preference	1
No sea fishing section	1

There is a preference 8 votes to 4 votes for a SAMF system, there is however, no outright winner within the SAMF options.

It should be noted that there are 48 Forces with only 12 forces voting, a return of 23%. In addition, there are no contact points for some forces including all of regions 12 to 15. The poor turn out could be attributed a number of factors including apathy to the problem, poor contact details, lack of agreement on the way forward or confusion over what is required.

The Committee are in a position to make a policy decision and the following are potential options for discussion:

- Mandate all competitions utilise the SAMF scoring system; with or without minor modification to give token points to undersize fish.
- Mandate all competitions utilise purely a length based system in which all fish count; or
- Leave it to the organising force to determine whether to adopt the SAMF or length based method.

It is suggested that the Committee consider the contents of this report and make a policy decision which is binding and not subject to further review for 5 years

Michael Hassen

Secretary to the Sea Fishing Committee