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ELLIOT'S

COMPLETE ANGLER;

SHOWING HOW TO

Take the Best Kinds of Fish:

TO WHICH IS ADDED A

GUIDE TO BOTTOM FISHING,

A CORRECT LIST OF

RIVERS, CANALS, AND PONDS

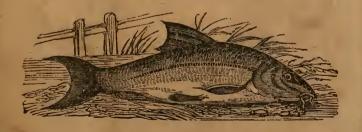
(IN THE VICINITY OF LONDON)

Where Fish are to be Found,

THE PROPER TACKLE AND BAITS REQUIRED,

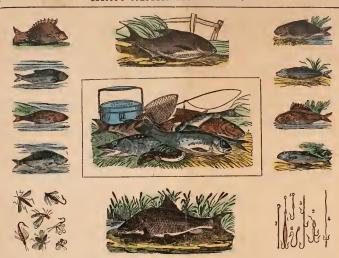
THE LAWS OF ANGLING.

HINTS TO ANGLERS,



LONDON: —ELLIOT, 475, OXFORD STREET, BLOOMSBURY, W.C.;
And all Booksellers and Fishing-Tackle Makers in Town or Country.





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ELLIOT'S

COMPLETE ANGLER.

INTRODUCTION

Sir Henry Wotton, a late Provost of Eton College, a man of learning, wit, and experience, was a lover of Angling, and a frequent practitioner of the art; speaking of which, he says:—

"It was an employment for his idle time, which was then not idly spent, for angling was, after tedious study, a rest to his mind, a cheerer of his spirits, a diverter of sadness, a calmer of unquiet thoughts, a moderator of passions, a procurer of contentedness, and that it begat habits of peace and patience in those that professed and practised it."

The studious man, of whatever profession, although perfectly conscious of the necessity of air and exercise to the preservation of health, has seldom sufficient resolution to tear himself from his accustomed pursuits, without some powerful stimulus to action, and, therefore, any pleasurable recreation that may induce exercise, and lead the sedentary to the enjoyment of a pure air, breathing over woods, meadows, and waters, cannot fail to be beneficial. I am not acquainted with any amusement, in which this advantage can be enjoyed without considerable alloy, except the diversion of angling.

The angler rises with the sun, and, therefore, has frequent opportunities of beholding the various beautiful phenomena which attend the advent of that gloricus orb; he hastens with buoyant spirits to his favourite stream, wending his way through flowery meadows, or to some lone mountain glen, where the congregated waters of the hills find a devious passage through

rocks and woods, to the calm bosom of the expansive lake. All the varieties of light and shade, of form and colour, are presented to his view, amidst a succession of sublime, pastoral, or romantic scenery; and the botanist, mineralogist, and entomologist, may find ample room for observation on the borders of a mountain stream.

Walton has very justly styled angling "the contemplative man's recreation;" for the practice of it is, indeed eminently calculated to still the stormy passions of the breast, and lead to the calm and tranquil pleasures arising from frequent meditation on the beauties of nature. This delightful old author has so skilfully defended his favourite art against the sneers of ignorance and prejudice; that I shall merely observe, that I believe the art of angling to be an innocent, entertaining, and a healthful pursuit, and calculated to be equally useful and amusing to men of studious habits and sedentary occupations.

Sacred and profane history alike prove the antiquity of angling; the Book of Job and the prophet Amos speak of fishhooks as well-known implements in the hands of ancient anglers; and Plutarch gives us a scene between the Queen of Egypt and her infatuated lover, which proves that Mark Antony, whatever might have been his personal accomplishments, was a very indifferent brother of the angle. Nor was this employment then held to be cruel (and thence unjustifiable), for He who "went about doing good" chose the greater number of his apostles from amongst fishermen; and, on one occasion, said expressly to a disciple, "Go thou to the sea and cast an hook, and take the first fish that cometh," which may surely be considered a sufficient answer to those whose extreme and somewhat morbid sensibility may have been awakened by the poetic vituperations of Lord Byron, or the exaggerated descriptions of the clever Horace Smith.

RIVERS, PONDS, AND CANALS, IN THE VICINITY OF LONDON.

The Thames contains all kinds of fish; being under the jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor as far as Staines, up to that place no one is allowed to fish (under a penalty of twenty pounds), during the months of March, April, and May, as most freshwater fish cast their spawn during those months.

From Staines to Battersea, various parts of the river are staked out, and bailiffs appointed to see that the fish are not taken by improper means. The angler may, therefore, be certain of meeting with plenty of sport in those places.

In the New River, which is free for any person to try his fortune in, from its source near Ware in Hertfordshire, to Islington, very many fine fish may be found.

The Lea river, which runs into the Thames at Poplar, abounds with fish. Some parts of the river are preserved, and for permission to angle there, you must pay a certain sum annually.

The Roding, which runs into the Thames at Barking, produces an abundance of eels, chub, perch, &c. There are many deep holes and favorable spots for angling in this river at Abridge, Woodford, Loughton, Ilford, Wanstead, and Barking.

In the Mole, which empties itself into the Thames at East Moulsey in Surrey, many good fish may be found. The angler will find the best sport near Esher, Leatherhead, Cobham, Dorking, or Ryegate.

In the Wandle, at Mitcham, Merton, Carshalton, and Wandsworth, fine trout, &c. may be taken.

On Chiselhurst common, in Kent, about twelve miles from London, are some ponds stored with carp and tench, &c. &c. The large pond near the King's Head Inn, is the best.

A mile to the east of Shooter's hill, in Kent, there are some ponds on a common near the road side, containing carp, tench, &c. T ese ponds are free to all anglers.

The Camberwell Canal contains pike, roach, carp, perch and eels

At Stanmore, in Middlesex, ten miles from London, there are two or three ponds on the common, in which perch, tench, &c. may be found. Between these ponds and Stanmore Priory, about a mile distant, is a very fine piece of water called the Long Pond, which contains pike, &c.

The Paddington Canal has chub, eels, gudgeons, perch, roach, and pike.

The river Wey, in Surrey, which joins the Thames near Oatlands park, contains barbel, ruffe, dace, gudgeous, carp, pike, and roach.

Dagenham Breach, in Essex, is preserved for angling. The subscription is two pounds per aunum. It is well stored with carp, pike, bream, eels, &c.

The Lake in the gardens of Hornsey-wood house, contains perch, tench, roach, &c., and in which persons taking refreshment at the tayern are allowed to fish.

The Ravensbourne, in Kent, contains good roach, chub, gudgeons, perch, trout, and dace.

In the Colne, near Uxbridge and Denham, fine trout abound; but as the river is rented, you must obtain leave to fish, and pay so much per pound for what you catch.

On Hampstead heath and Clapham common, are some free ponds, containing perch, carp, and a few other fish.

The Surrey Canal Docks at Rotherhithe, contain plenty of good jack, roach, bream, perch, and eels. It is a subscription water, and the terms are a guinea annually, or a shilling for each day's sport.

In the Commercial Docks at Rotherhithe, bream, eels, &c. abound. You must procure an admission ticket from a director, before you can fish in this water.

TACKLE FOR ANGLING.

RODS.

The rod being the staff upon which the angler's sport depends, we shall proceed to give some particulars respecting the choice and manufacture of that essential article.

The rod should, when put together, taper gradually from the butt end to the top, and be perfectly straight and even.

For general purposes, a rod of about twelve feet in length is the most convenient; but in wide rivers, fifteen and eighteen feet rods are sometimes required. A bamboo rod with several tops of different degrees of strength, is exceedingly well adapted for general purposes, and a cane rod surpasses every other for fine fishing.

If the young angler wishes to turn rod manufacturer, he may use ash for the butts, and lancewood for the tops, and so make extremely good two piece rods; or crab tree for the stocks,

with hazel or yew switches for the tops.

A whalebone top is an extremely good, although not an indispensable article; it should have a strong loop of horse-hair

whipt on it.

It is a good plan to have a rod for each kind of fishing, as by such an arrangement they can be kept in complete order, and ready for immediate service. The rods should be ringed to guide the line from the reel.

LINES.

The best and most serviceable lines are those made of horse-hair, for such as are composed of hair and silk, from retaining the water, soon become rotten. Good lines should be perfectly twisted, round, and even, without any little irregularities, and in point of colour those which are of a light grey, brown, or white, are perhaps the most useful; some anglers, however, prefer a light serrel tint.

The bottom, or casting line for fly fishing, which is affixed to the line on the reel, must be of gut at the top, and very fine at the dropper or bottom, and before any flies are made upon it, it should be picked and tried to see that it is of an uniform thick-

ness throughout.

It is never worth a lad's while to attempt manufacturing fishing lines, as they may always be purchased more neatly finished, and even at a much cheaper rate than he could pos-

sibly contrive to make them.

When fastening the line on the rod, the loop of the line should be passed through the ring at the end of the top joint, carried over the ferrule, and then drawn up to the top again, by which plan the loop will be secured.

FLOATS:

Floats can always be procured ready-made of all sizes and

every variety of shape.

For small fish and slow streams, porcupine, swan, goose, or Muscovy duck quill floats, will be found the best; and in strong and rapid rivers, or for the larger kinds of fish, cork floats must be used. If the young angler prefers exercising his own ability in making cork floats, to purchasing them ready made, he must procure a piece of extremly fine-grained sound cork, and bore a hole through it with a small red-hot iron, then put in a quill which will exactly fit the aperture, and afterwards cut the cork into the shape of a pear.

When this is finished, he must grind it smooth with pumicestone, and paint and varnish it. As it is essentially requisite that the float should swim perpendicularly in the water, that it may betray the slightest nibble, it must be carefully poised by

fastening a few shot on the line.

WINCHES.

A winch is one of the most useful additions to your angling apparatus which you can procure. With its assistance you may reach parts of a river you could not otherwise attempt.

HOOKS.

Of hooks there are four kinds, the Limerick, the Kendal, the Kirby, and the Sneckbend; which fashion or shape is the best, is a question very difficult to settle, as almost every angler has a predilection in favour of one sort, to the prejudice of all the others.

BAITS.

The ash-grub is found in the rotten bark of a tree which has been felled some time; it is an excellent bait for grayling, chub, dace, or roach, and may be used all the year round. It should be kept in wheat bran.

The brandling, or gilt-tail, is found in old dung-hills, tanner's bark, rotten earth, and cows' dung. It is an admirable bait for

perch, tench, bream, gudgeon, and indeed for almost any kind of fish.

The cabbage worm is a good bait for chub, dace, roach, or trout.

The caterpillar also is employed for the same fish as the cabbage worm.

The locality of the crab-tree worm is indicated by its name.

It is a good bait for roach, dace, trout, and chub.

Flag or dock worms inhabit the fibres of flag roots in old pits or ponds. They are excellent baits for teuch, bream, bleak,

grayling, carp, perch, dace, and roach.

Gentles, or maggots, are bred by hanging up a piece of meat until it putrifies; they should be kept on flesh, and when they have arrived at their full size, a little bran and damp sand may be put in the vessel in which they are immured, for the purpose of scouring them; they will be fit for use in a day or two, and are tempting bait for all kinds of fish. When putting a gentle on the hook, you must insert the hook at one end of it, and bring it out at the other, and then draw the gentle back until it completely covers the point of the hook.

The meadow or marsh worm is found in marshy places or on

the banks of the rivers

Oak worms may be gathered on the leaves of the oak tree.

The tag-tail may be procured in meadows or chalky lands, after rain, or in the morning, during the mouths of March or April; it is accounted a good bait for trout in cloudy weather, or when the water is muddy.

White grubs, or white bait, are much larger than gentles,

and may be found in sandy and meadow lands.

In order to scour and preserve worms, you must procure some very fresh moss, wash away all particles of earth from it, and squeeze it, but not too dry; then put it into a jar and press it closely down, and place worms upon it.

Wasp grubs may be taken from the nest; they require to be hardened in a warm oven, and will prove a good bait for such

fish as take gentles.

House crickets are good to dib with for chub.

Beetles are good also for chub; they may be found in cowdung. Miller's thumbs, bleaks, minnows, dace, gudgeons, loaches, sticklebats, smelts, and roach, are used as baits for some of the larger fish.

Grasshopper's are good baits during June, July, and August, for roach, grayling, chub, and trout; their legs and wings must

be taken off before they are put on the hook.

Palmer worms, or cankers, are found on herbs, plants and trees. Salmon spawn is an excellent bait for trout and chub; you may purchase it at the shops ready for use; but if you wish to prepare it yourself, you must attend to the following instructions:

About September or October, purchase a pound of salmon spawn, boil it for a quarter of an hour, wash away the blood, and pick out all the pieces of skin; next add to it two ounces of salt and a quarter of an ounce of saltpetre, and bray them all up together in a mortar; put it in little jars, and pour over it mutton suet melted; cover the mouths of the jars with pieces of bladder, and the spawn will be fit for use at any time, and may be kept for two years.

GROUND BAIT.

Ground baiting is a most essential part of angling and ought never to be omitted, as success in bottom or float fishing cannot be expected, unless the proper means for drawing the fish together are resorted to.

For barbel, it is necessary to make the lumps of ground bait large in proportion to the strength of the current in which you fish.

For carp, tcuch, eels, perch, and bream, fresh grains will be found very serviceable. They must be perfectly fresh, for if they have the slightest taint of sourness, the fish will not touch them.

PASTE BAITS.

When working up paste baits, be particularly careful to have clean hands, and knead your pastes thoroughly, so that all the materials may be well incorporated.

Sheeps' blood and saffron make a good paste for roach, bleak, &c.

For barbel, an excellent paste may be made by dipping the crumb of new white bread in the liquor in which chandlers' greaves has been boiled, adding a little of the greaves, and working it up till it is stiff.

Paste baits are not at all adapted for swift, running streams, but for quiet brooks, ponds, or very still rivers.

ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

There are upwards of a hundred different kinds of flies suitable to this species of angling, a full description of the method of making each, would far exceed our limits; we shall, therefore, describe some of the most usual only. The cow-dung fly may be used from the 1st of April, and will kill till September. Its wing should be made of a feather of the land-rail, its body of yellow camlet mingled with a little fur from the brown bear, and its legs of ginger blue dun, is an excellent fly during March and April, and should be used in the middle of the day.

The dun fly's wings must be made of a starling's feather, body of blue fur from a water rat, mixed with a little yellowcoloured mohair, and its tail, which is forked, of two fibres

from the feather which you use for the wings.

The black gnat makes its appearance about the latter end of

April, and will be found useful till the close of May.

A black ostrich's harl must be used in making the body of this fly, and starling's feather for the wings; it should be trimmed short and thick.

This fly is reckoned a good killer when the water is rather

low.

The violet fly is also used in April; it is made of light duncoloured bear's hair mixed with violet stuff, and winged with

the grey feather of a mallard.

The stone fly, which may be used with success during May, especially in the mornings, is composed of dun bear's hair, mixed with brown and yellow camlet, putting more yellow on the belly and tail than on any other part, a grizzled hackle for the legs, and a mottled feather from a hen pheasant, or blue cock's hackle for the wings, which must lie flat.

The green drake, or May fly, is, perhaps, the best that can be procured for trout fishing. Its wings should be made of the light feather of the grey drake, dyed lemon colour, its body of yellow-coloured mohair, neatly ribbed with green silk, head of a peacock's harl, and its tail of three long hairs from a sable

muff.

The yellow sally is an approved fly from the early part of May to the end of June. Its body must be made of yellow

unravelled worsted, mixed with some fur from a hair's ear, and its wings of a hackle dyed yellow.

The grey drake appears about the same time as the green

drake, which, indeed in shape it very closely resembles.

The purple fly is made of purple wool mixed with light brown bear's hair, and dubbed with purple silk, is useful during June and July.

The red ant's wings must be made of a light feather from a starling, its body of a peacock's harl, and its legs of a ginger coloured hackle, and be careful to make its body thick at the end. This fly first appears in June, and continues to August; it is a capital killer from eleven in the morning till six in the evening.

HINTS TO ANGLERS.

It is generally understood that when two or three persons are angling in the same stream, there shall be a distance of thirty yards between them.

If the learner wishes to become a complete angler, he must use fine tackle, as the skill and care which such tackle requires

will soon make him a master of the art.

When the tackle breaks, the angler must not mourn over the accident, but do his best to remedy it, by speedily repairing the damage, and resuming his sport.

The angler must wear strong boots or shoes, and keep his

feet dry, unless he wishes to become an invalid.

If he values his health, he will abstain from drinking water out of rivers or ponds when he is in a perspiration, or is parched with thirst.

If the weather is very cold, or winds sets very strongly from the east or north, the angler will meet with but little sport

Heavy showers of rain or hail, and thunder storms, are likewise extremely prejudicial to his amusement, and as in the winter months, few opportunities are afforded for the exercise of his talents out of doors, he should, while snugly screened from the pinching blasts, attend to all the little repairs which may be necessary to his various appurtenances.

His hooks, his lines, peruse with careful eye, Increase his tackle, and his rods re-tie.—GAY.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF FISH.

THE SALMON TROUT.

This is, perhaps, the most beautiful of all fish, whether we regard its elegant form or charming colours. Being a very strong fish, it affords much sport to the angler, and compels him to use a rod, running tackle, and a cork float.

Trout are in season from March to October or November, and will take minnows, frogs, artificial and natural flies, snails,

worms, caddis, salmon spawn, and paste.

Minnows are without doubt the most killing baits, and by

them the largest fish are caught.

When fishing with a minnow, cast your bait lightly into the water, and draw it against the current, and when you use worms, you may let them drag on the bottom.

Do not strike the instant you feel a bite, but rather wait till two or three tugs have been made, and then try your skill.

The trout seldom bites during the day, unless it is dark, cloudy weather, with a stiff breeze blowing; the angler must therefore be at his post very early or very late.

This fish's favorite haunts are deep dark holes and eddies, mill tails, pools, the roots of trees, and below bridges and

weirs.

THE SMELT.

When fishing for smelts, a stiff and strong top to your rod is necessary, a gut line, heavy float, and ten or twelve hooks, placed about eight or nine inches asunder; if the hooks are tied on a fine bristle they will stand out better from the line.

The best bait is the small piece of an eel, or one of its own genus, and the bottom hook should be allowed to touch the

ground.

Smelts are frequently fished for without having a float on the line, by affixing a small piece of lead at the bottom, which you suffer to drag on the ground, and alternately raise and depress until you feel a bite; by this method, which is called dipfishing, immense numbers may be taken very easily. The pieces of lead may be obtained at any tackle shop.

THE STICKLEBACK.

This fish is seldom found more than two inches in length.

It thrives in all kinds of ditches and ponds, and may be easily taken by a little piece of worm; it is sometimes used as a bait for many heart in that case it should have the privile heart for

taken by a little piece of worm; it is sometimes used as a bait for perch, and in that case it should have the prickly back fin cut off.

THE BULL HEAD.

The bull-head is an ugly-looking little fish, which may be found in almost every river or brook; a small piece of worm is a good bait for it, and in its turn, it makes an excellent bait for pike or trout; as a fish for the table, it is not worth the trouble of taking.

THE MINNOW.

This extremely beautiful little fish is found in most gravelly streams, and is in season from March till October.

Although in point of delicacy of flavour, it is equal to any fish brought to table, its diminutive size seems to bar its appear-

ance on the festal board, as it is seldom cooked.

As baits for other fish, minnows are highly prized by the angler, and the baits most tempting to them are a blood worm, a piece of a red worm, a gentle, or a bit of paste bait; the tackle must be of the lightest description. They may be taken at any time of the day, and it is necessary to strike as soon as a bite is perceived.

THE LOACH.

This is a somewhat scarce and very small fish, seldom exceeding four inches in length. It haunts the bottoms of small gravelly rivulets and brooks, and may be taken at any time during summer with the tail end of a red worm. It makes an admirable bait for large eels, and should be used on the night lines.

THE BLEAK.

The bleak is found in most rivers; the best bait is a gentle, and it may be allowed to sink about a foot and half under the surface of the water. Use a No. 13 hook, a single horse-hair

line, and a very small quill float; frequently throw in a few gentles, or pieces of chewed bread as a ground bait, and strike the instant you perceive a bite. The bleak spawns in May, and is then out of season.

THE GRAYLING.

The grayling is an extremely beautiful fish, and inhabits most of the clear, rapid rivers which have a sandy or gravelly bottom, and its favourite haunts are the sides of the stream.

A light rod, cork float, fine hook, and running tackle, are necessary, and when you observe a bite, strike the moment the float descends. Handle your tackle skilfully and gently, as the fish's mouth is exceedingly tender, and easily gives way with the ierk of the hook.

The grayling will take caddis, marsh and dew worms, flies, both natural and artificial, and white grubs. The principal months in which to angle for it are, September, October, and

November, when it is in its best condition.

When fly fishing for this tenant of the stream, it is necessary to have a fine gut, and smaller fly, and be more ready with hand and eve than when angling for trout.

EELS.

Eels love muddy and stilly water, and are in season the year round. There are several methods of taking them, viz.: by rod and lines, sniggling, bobbing, and trimmer fishing, and the most alluring baits are wasp-grubs, maggots, and small red worms.

If you use a rod, the line must be either of strong gut or twisted, and the hook No. 8 size. Let the bait touch the bottom, and when you perceive a bite, allow the float to remain for a moment under water before you strike.

When using the dead line, which should be of whipcord, a bank runner must be employed; five or six hooks should be put on the line about nine inches asunder, and they should be baited

with small fish or lob-worms.

For sniggling, the line must be either of platted silk or whipcord, and instead of a hook a stout worsted needle should be fastened by its middle to the line. A large marsh or small lobworm, tough and well scoured, is the best bait for this species

of fishing, and when you bait your needle, you must thrust its point into the worm's head, and draw it through the body of the worm, until the latter completely enshrouds it.

When you go out sniggling, you should carry the line on a winder, in your hand, and search for the fish near flood gates, warfings, bridges, piles, holes in the banks of rivers, ponds, and canals, and also in ditches, and amongst osiers and willows.

You must put the bait into the lurking holes by means of a stick with a forked head, and when you find that the bait is taken, by the line being pulled further into the hole, give the fish a few seconds to gorge, and then strike smartly, which will instantly cause the hook to fall across in his stomach; then hold the line fast and pull it towards you.

Bobbing for eels is thus practised:

A large quantity of marsh-worms should be procured, and as many as will make a bunch about the size of a turnip, strung on worsted by passing a needle through them from head to tail, and fastening them on your line, so that all the ends may hang level; affix in the middle of the bunch a leaden plummet of a conical form, and then tie the whole to a stout rod or pole.

Having thus prepared your material, cast your bait softly into the water, and move it gently up and down until you perceive by the jerks on the line that the eels are attracted by the bait; then draw the line very steadily to the surface, and land it with all possible expedition.

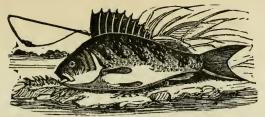
During warm weather, the shallow parts of the stream are the most likely haunts of these fish, and where most sport may be

obtained.

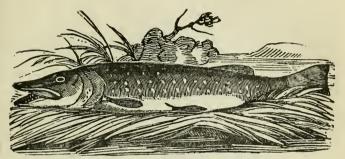
THE ROACH.

This fish is generally considered foolish, and one easily taken: but how this idea originated it is impossible to tell. The rod should be long and very light, the line of extrewely fine gut, and the hook No. 9 or 10.

The angler must hold the rod so low, that the end of it is not more than fourteen inches above the float, which should have shot attached to it, in order that little more than the eighth of an inch of it may ride above the surface, as roach bite so delicately, that without you pay the strictest attention to your float. you will lose four bites out of six; when using a single line, you must have a landing net ready, otherwise you will run the hazard of breaking your line.



THE PERCH.



THE PIKE.



THE BARBEL.



THE EEL.



A paste made of second day's white bread, slightly dipped in water, with a little vermillion added to it, so as to make it a salmon colour, is the best bait for these fish.

In rivers, they bite all the year round, but in ponds only

during the summer.

THE CARP.

This is a very cunning fish, indeed from its extreme craftiness, it has sometimes been styled the water fox. It may be found in lakes, ponds and rivers, and frequents the quietest and deepest parts of the stream, especially holes near flood-gates, and beds of weeds.

It spawns in May, June, and July, and is in season in March

and April.

The best time to angle for this fish is either very early or very late, as it seldom bites in the middle of the day, unless a soft shower of rain happens to fall. Use a long, light rod, with a reel, and let the line be of the finest description; the hook, if worms be employed as bait, should be Nos. 5 or 6; if maggots, Nos. 8 or 9; and if wasp-grubs, No. 7.

Keep a very watchful eye on the float, and stand as far from the water's edge as you can; strike the instant the float disappears, and if you hook a large fish, give him line cautiously.

THE PERCH.

The perch is a voracious and bold fish, and takes a bait freely. Strong tackle is necessary in angling for it, gut or twisted hair line, cork float, and No. 7 hook. Marsh, brandling, cabbage, and well-scoured red worms, maggots, and wasp-grubs, are excellent baits for this fish.

Ground-baits of stewed malt, grains, or lob-worms, cut to pieces, should be thrown into the water, before you commence

angling.

Perch lurk near bridges, mill-pools, and locks, in navigable rivers and canals, and in other streams, near rushes, in dark still holes and eddies, and in the gravelly parts of rivers. They spawn in February and March, and may be taken from April to October; the best season for them is during April, May, and June.

THE FLOUNDER.

Flounders, although properly sea-fish, are frequently found in rivers at some distance from the sea; they may be taken from March to August, but as their spawning time is in June, they should not then be eaten.

Small red worms, and brandlings, are the best baits, and they should be put upon No. 6 hooks. Let the bait touch the bottom,

and keep it continually moving.

THE RUDD.

This fish is held in little esteem for the table; it very much resembles the roach in shape and colour, and thrives best in ponds. It will take red worms, paste, and gentles; and the tackle requisite consists of a gut line, quill float, and No. 10 hook. Let the bait touch the bottom, and strike the moment you see a bite.

THE CHUB.

The chub in summer delights in scours, tumbling bays, and deep and rapid parts of rivers; and in the autumn and winter, in the little holes under banks, where the stream is sheltered by overhanging willows.

It is a bold biting fish, and may be caught all the year round; in summer it bites during the whole of the day, but best in the morning and evening; it may also be taken in the night time.

The baits adapted for chub are maggots, red worms, gentles, bullock's brains, and pith from the back bone of a bullock.

Use running tackle, gut line, quill float, and No. 8 or 9 hook; strike the instant you perceive a bite, and let the fish run, giving it plenty of line, otherwise it will break loose, as it usually darts furiously away to the opposite side, the moment it is struck.

THE TENCH.

The tench thrives best in ponds where the bottom is composed of mud or clay, but a few may sometimes be taken in rivers. They will take the same baits, and may be found in the same haunts as the carp; they bite freely in summer months, especially on dark, warm, muggy days, and during fine mild showers. They spawn in May, and the best time to angle for them is early in the morning, and late in the evening.

THE PIKE.

This is one of the best flavoured and highly esteemed fresh water fish. It spawns in March or April, and although generally reckoned good from Midsummer to Christmas, it is in its prime during September and October only.

The baits used in fishing for it are, roach, dace, gudgeon, minnows, chub, bleak, and young frogs; and the proper size of

a bait is when it weighs from one to four ounces.

There are several methods of trolling for this fish, namely, with the gorge hook, No. 1, which is loaded on the shank with lead; with the snap hook, either spring or plain, composed of three hooks fastened together, Nos. 2, 3; with the bead hook, formed of two single hooks, tied back to back, with a little drop or bead of lead affixed to a link or two of chain, depending from the lower part of it, No. 4; and with the live bait hooks, which may be either single or double, Nos. 5 and 6. In baiting these various hooks, the following directions must be very carefully attended to:—

Hook the curved end of a baiting-needle, No. 7, to the loop of the gimp on which the hook is fastened, pass the needle through the mouth of the bait, and bring it out at the tail; the lead on the hook will thus be hidden in its belly, and the barbs or shanks inside its mouth; and in order to keep the bait steady on hook, it is a good plan to tie its tail to the gimp with some white thread,

The snap-hook is baited by thrusting the point of the upper or small hook under the skin of the bait, on the side, and

bringing it up the back fin.

Another snap-hook is baited by passing the loop of the gimp inside the gill of the bait, and bringing it out at the mouth; the lead thus lies in its throat, the first hook outside its gill, and the others in its side, the barbs being just beneath the skin; the bait's mouth should next be sewn up, so as to keep the lead and hooks in their proper places

On a bead-hook, a gudgeon or barbel is the best bait; the little drop or bead of lead should be put into its mouth, which

should afterwards be sewn up with white thread.

The live-bait must have a No. 3 or 4 hook passed either through its lips or the flesh beneath the back fin. In the latter plan care must be taken not to touch the back bone, or the bait will soon die.

The rod for trolling must be very strong, about fourteen feet

in length, and have a whalebone, or hickory top; the line must be at least thirty yards in length, made either of silk, or silk

and gut twisted together, and be kept on a winch.

When you begin trolling, first fasten the winch on to the rod, then pass the line through the rings on the under side of the rod, and attach the hook to the line by a small swivel; next grasp the rod in your right hand, just above the winch, and rest the butt end of it against the side of your stomach, draw out, with your left hand, a yard or two of the line from the swivel, hold it firmly, and then with a sharp jerk from your right hand, cast the bait into the stream, and let the line which you hold in your left hand run out freely, that the hook may not be checked when cast out, by your holding the line too fast, and so fall short of the spot you wished to reach.

The favourite haunts of pike are the deep eddies in tumblingbays, and deep still water in rivers; near beds of candock weeds, and mouths of ditches or small streams which empty themselves

into rivers, and near flood-gates.

THE DACE.

The dace is found in most rivers. It is a handsome fish, and is generally accounted light and nourishing food. It gives

good amusement to the angler, as it bites freely.

The hook should be a size larger than for roach, but in all other respects the tackle may be the same. Use a ground-bait of bran and clay mixed, and throw it into water frequently while angling. Dace will take red worms, maggots, wasp grubs, greaves, and a paste made of cheese and honey; they are partial to red worms in the spring, and in the summer if you use gentles, put two at a time on the hook; a small piece of greaves with a gentle is also a very good bait.

You may begin fishing for them in March, and they continue in season till October; after that time they seldom bite unless

the weather is very mild.

THE GUDGEON.

The gudgeon is a very bold biting fish, and gives much amusement to the angler. It is in season from April to October, and may be taken at any time of the day, particularly in dull weather. The best bait is a blood worm, and the tackle should

be a fine gut or hair line, light cork float, and a No. 9 or 10 hook.

Gudgeons frequent the shallows, where the river is free from weeds, with a gravelly or sandy bottom, which must be often stirred with a rake made for that purpose.

Allow your bait to touch the ground, and before you begin, plumb the depth of the stream. In the rivers Lea and Thames

immense numbers of this fish may be taken in a day.

THE BARBEL.

This fish is in little esteem for the table, its flesh being coarse; it is highly prized, however, by the angler, as it gives him good sport, not unmixed with fear for the safety of his tackle, for when of large size it is an extremely strong and crafty fish, and will use every expedient to get off the hook, or else snap the line, which, unless the angler exerts his skill, it will certainly achieve.

Before you begin fishing for barbel, throw plenty of ground

bait into the water, and continue to do so at intervals.

The best bait for this purpose is one made of soaked greaves, bran, and clay, mixed together in balls about the size of an egg.

The barbel being a very sharp and quick biter, you must strike smartly the moment you see a nibble, then let him run some distance before you turn him round; keep him away from weeds, strive to get him into deep water, play him until he has lost all his strength, and then haul him to land.

In the Thames, barbel are usually fished for from punts or boats. A strong rod is necessary, with running tackle, gut line, quill float, and a No. 7 or 8 hook. The bait should always

touch the bottom of the stream.

THE POPE, OR RUFFE.

This fish resembles the perch in shape, and is sometimes called the ruffe perch. It is found principally in slow deep rivers which have a gravelly soil, and its spawning time is in April.

In angling for it, use a quill float and No. 7 hook. The moment you observe a bite, strike, without allowing much line.

The proper baits are small red worms and brandlings, and they should be suffered to drag lightly on the ground.

Throw in a ground bait made of clay and worms, if the water is clear, but if it is muddy, worms alone will do.

This fish will bite freely at any time of the day, during the summer, but mostly in cloudy, sultry weather.

THE BREAM.

The bream is principally found in lakes, and still rivers. It may be taken in the spring and summer, but as it spawns during June and July, it is best to angle for it in May—when it is in its prime—and from the end of July to the end of September; and in these months from sunrise till eight o'clock in the morning, and from five o'clock till dusk in the evening.

Use a gut line, quill float, and No. 10 hook, and let the bait touch the bottom. The baits necessary, are well scoured red

worms, maggots, flag worms, and brandlings.

Use lob-worms cut in pieces, and grains, as ground baits,

before you commence angling.

The angler should be very silent, keep from the edge of the water as much as possible, and strike the instant the float is drawn under the surface of the water.

SALT WATER ANGLING.

Many kinds of fish may be caught at the mouths of rivers

when the tide is running up.

Plaice, whiting, small cod, turbut, and haddock, will readily seize a bait, and may be angled for from piers and projecting rocks; indeed, even mackerel may be taken from similar places, during the time they are in season.

For this kind of angling, a good strong rod, stout, well-leaded

line, large cork float, and good sized hook are requisite.

When fishing at the mouths of rivers with gentles, well-scoured red worms, or shrimps, as baits, you may take whitings, eels, flat-fish, small cod fish, and haddock. When fishing from a pier, or rock, or a boat, at a short distance from land, two or three red worms, a small raw crab, or a muscle, or a little bit of whiting will prove very serviceable baits.

A piece of brilliant scarlet cloth will tempt mackerel, and to ensure success, it is necessary to let your bait hang about eighteen or twenty inches below the surface of the water, or even lower if you can allow it.

If you have a crab or muscle on your hook, you should let it

drag on the bottom.

When fishing for haddock, your line must be deep in the water, and your hook baited with two or three lob-worms or muscles taken from the shell. Your tackle must be strong, for they struggle, especially if they have arrived to a tolerable growth.

In sea fishing, when a ship is under sail, your line should be sixty fathoms in length, having a large hook affixed to it, and a piece of lead sufficient to keep it as deep under water as possible. Your line must be made of hemp, and fastened to the gunwhale of the ship. Cod and large haddocks are the fish usually taken in this way, and sometimes ling. The bait is a piece of raw beef, and it is scarcely possible to feel either of them bite, even though you hold the line in your hand, by reason of the continual motion of the ship.

Angling in salt water is not half so agreeable as in fresh water, nor does it require near so much tact and management of the

tackle and baits as fresh water fishing.

THAMES ANGLING.

A celebrated angler—one who has wandered along the sides of most of the European and some of the American rivers, with his rod in his hand—has said, that, having seen all these rivers, he had never yet met with one in any way to be compared to the Thames, either for beauty or the good sport generally to be found in it.

Byron, in writing on the scenery of the banks of the Thames, has given us the following lines:—

The river calmly swells and flows,
The charm of this enchanted ground,
And all its various turns disclose
Some broken beauty varying round.

The sternest heart its wish might bound, On earth to dwell delighted here; Nor could on earth a spot be found To nature and to me so dear. I shall now describe some of the different fishing stations, easy of access:—

In the Docks, below London Bridge, perch, roach, and bream may be taken.

The Commercial Docks, near Deptford, abound with perch, roach, and large bream. In both the above docks you must have permission of a director.

Battersea Bridge.—At this station good roach and dace may be had during the months of July, August, September, and

October.

Putney Bridge.—The same kind of fish may be taken.

Putney to Richmond.—Between these there are few places either for punt or bank-fishing, but tolerable good sport may be had off the Aits, at Brentford, and between Isleworth and Richmond.

Richmond.—From the middle of August to the end of October, about two hundred yards above the bridge, fine barbel may be taken; but in the early part of the season, the preserve, opposite the Duke of Buccleuch's boat-house, the dace are very numerous, and many barbel are caught with dace tackle.

Twickenham.—The barbel and dace are plentiful, roach not so numerous. At Twickenham Ait some large chub may be taken.

Kingston and Hampton Wick.—Barbel, perch, roach, dace, and gudgeon may be had in both these places; from June to August the gudgeon-fishing is very good.

Teddington.—It is a favorite resort for the lovers of barbelfishing, and good gudgeon, roach, and dace. It is not consi-

dered so good as Richmond, Ditton, or Hampton.

Thames Ditton.—This place is well stocked with barbel, perch, chub, roach, and dace, and is a very favorite resort of London anglers, as it deserves to be.

Hampton Court.—This preserve contains barbel, roach, dace, and many fine perch. From July to October excellent gudgeon may be had between Hampton and Sunbury, and numerous perch are taken while fishing for gudgeon. At Sunbury large gudgeon and trout may be taken.

Walton.—Heavy barbel, roach, dace, and chub, it is also one

of the best places for perch-fishing on the river.

Shepperton.—This place is well stored with roach and dace, chub and barbel, and good bank-fishing for perch, chub and jack.

7

Weybridge.—There is good pike-fishing in the back river.

Chertsey Bridge.—There is a small stream which runs at the back of Chertsey, containing jack, perch, chub, &c.

Laleham.—The fly-fisher may here exercise his craft with general success.

Staines.—Since the preservation of the Thames, fishing here is much improved; it is frequented for barbel fishing.

Windsor.—At this place, gudgeon, pike, trout, and barbel may be taken; but between Windsor and Bray, trout are more abundant than in any other part of the river.

Maidenhead and Marlow.—At either of these places the angler will find good sport in pike and perch, in September and October.

MONTHLY GUIDE FOR BOTTOM FISHING.

JANUARY.—Chub, pike, and roach are the only fish that can be taken in this month. The middle of the day is the most seasonable time, provided the water is tolerably clear, and free from ice.

FEBRUARY.—Towards the latter end of this month, when the weather becomes somewhat milder, carp, gudgeons, and minnows may be taken, as well as pike, chub, and roach. The middle of the day is the most favourable time, and fish in eddies near banks. The perch spawns either in this or the next month.

MARCH.—In this month, minnows, roach, chub, gudgeons, tench, carp, and trout, form the bill of fare. Smelts, bleak, pike, perch, and dace spawn. In this month also, the middle of the day is the best for angling.

April.—In this month of "ever-varying shade and sunshine," the increasing warmth of the weather brings also increase of sport to the patient angler, and tench, perch, trout, roach, carp, gudgeons, flounders, bleak, minnows, and eels reward his toil. Barbel, pike, chub, ruffe, and dace are out of season, this being their spawning time.

MAY.—Perch, ruffe, bream, gudgeons, flounders, dace, minnows, cels, and trout may be taken. Carp, barbel, tench, chub, roach, and bleak, spawn.

JUNE.—Roach, dace, minnows, bleak, gudgeons, eels, barbel,

ruffe, perch, pike, and trout are in season. Carp, tench, bream, and gudgeon, spawn about this time.

July.—The list is still tolerably comprehensive; trout, flounders, chub, dace, eels, bleak, minnows, pike, barbel, gudgeons, and roach, affording good sport. Bream and carp spawn.

August.—In this month, barbel, bream, gudgeons, roach, flounders, chub, dace, eels, bleak, minnows, pike, ruffe, and perch, bite freely.

SEPTEMBER.—Roach, gudgeous, dace, chub, eels, tench, bleak, minnows, barbel, bream, ruffe, pike, trout, perch, and grayling are in season.

OCTOBER.—Tench, gudgeons, roach, chub, dace, minnows, bleak, pike, trout, and grayling, are the principal fish in season in this month.

NOVEMBER.—This month's list is limited; roach, pike, chub, trout, and grayling, being the only fish now in season! Roach and chub get into deep waters, and remain there till spring.

DECEMBER.—When the weather is propitious, pike, roach, and chub, may sometimes be taken, but all other fish have retired to their winter retreats.

RULES OF THE THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY,

1.—That the affairs of this society be directed by a committee, not exceeding twenty-four in number; two of them shall be treasurer and honorary secretary, and any five shall be a quorum. Vacancies occasioned by resignation, or otherwise,

shall be filled up by the committee.

2.—That the committee shall recommend to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor the necessary number, and persons to be appointed water bailiffs, for the protection of the river—report their misconduct or neglect of duty—superintend the payment of their wages and rewards—hear complaints against poachers, or injury done to the staking of the preserves and deeps, and all other matters relating to the interest of the society.

3.—That the committee shall meet the first Saturday in each fence month, the first Saturday in September, and the first Saturday in January, in every year. But a special committee

may be called at any time, at the desire of three of its members, the object of which shall be stated by the secretary in the summonses, seven days previous to such meeting.

4.—That the annual subscription be one guinea, to become

due on the 1st of March.

5.—That the salaries of the water bailiffs be £10 per annum (since raised to £20), payable half-yearly; viz. in April and October.

6.—That no person shall be employed in the capacity of

water bailiff, who fishes with nets.

That no water bailiff of the society, when engaged to attend a party fishing, be allowed to fish himself, unless the party so employing him be present, authorising his so doing. And that no fisherman, whose name and residence is inserted in the society's annual list, be continued therein if complained of as fishing for himself, to the hindrance or annoyance of any mem-

ber of the society, or other amateurs of angling.

7.—That there be a general meeting of the society in London, in the month of May in every year, at such place, and on such day, as the committee may think most convenient to appoint; and that the secretary shall give fourteen days' notice thereof, in two of the public newspapers, when the proceedings of the society shall be submitted to the subscribers, with a statement of its finances, and in what manner they have been appropriated.

LAWS RELATING TO ANGLING.

By an Act of Parliament for consolidating and amending the Laws relating to Larceny, &c., passed in the 7th and 8th George IV., it is provided "That if any person shall unlawfully and wilfully take or destroy any fish in any water which shall run through or be in any land adjoining or belonging to the dwelling house of any person being the owner of such water, or having a right of fishery therein, every such offender shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and being convicted thereof, shall be punished accordingly; and if any person shall unlawfully and wilfully take or destroy, or attempt to take or destroy, any fish in any water not being such as aforesaid, but which shall be private property, or in which there shall be any private right of fishery, every such offender being convicted thereof before a Justice of the Peace, shall forfeit and pay, over and above the value of the

fish taken or destroyed, (if any) such sum of money not exceeding five pounds, as to the Justice shall seem meet; provided always that nothing herein before contained shall extend to any person angling in the day-time; but if any person shall by angling in the day-time, unlawfully and wilfully take or destroy, or attempt to take or destroy, any fish in any such water as first mentioned, he shall on conviction before a Justice of the Peace, forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding five pounds; and if in any such water as last mentioned, he shall, on the like conviction, forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding two pounds, as to the Justices shall seem meet; and if the boundary of any parish, township, or village, shall happen to be in, or by the side of any such water as is herein before mentioned, it shall be sufficient to prove that the offence was committed, either in the parish, township, or village named in the indictment or information, or in any parish, township, or village adjoining thereto.

"And be it enacted, that if any person shall at any time be found fishing against the provisions of this Act, it shall be lawful for the owner of the ground, water or fishery, where such offender shall be so found, his servants, or any persons authorised by him, to demand from such offender any rods, lines, hooks, nets, or other implements for taking or destroying fish, which shall then be in his possession; and in case such offender shall not immediately deliver up the same, to seize and take them from him for the use of such owner; provided always, that any person angling in the day-time against the provisions of this Act, from whom any implements used by anglers shall be taken, or by whom the same shall be delivered up as aforesaid, shall by the taking or delivery thereof, be exempted from the payment of

any damages or penalty for such angling."

And by another Act passed in the 7th and 8th George IV., it is provided, that "if any person shall maliciously in any way destroy the dam of a fish-pond or other water, being private property, with intent to take or destroy any of the fish in the same; or shall maliciously put any noxious material in any such pond or water with intent to destroy the fish therein, such offender shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and be punished accordingly."

The provisions of these Acts do not extend to Scotland and

Ireland.

THE END.

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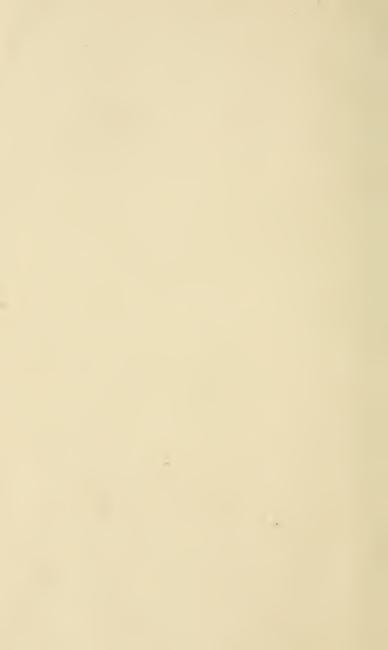














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