

Welcome to the Species Hunt! THE HUNT IS ON!

The Species Hunt has been developed to appeal to all sea anglers in order to support the sport that we hold in such high regard. The overall aim of the competition is to get people out there fishing. The Species Hunt is sponsored by Tronixpro and administered by the Angling Trust.

Our two nationwide challenges run alongside each other from 00:00 Sunday 1st April 2023 until 23:59 31st March 2024.

1. **The Species Hunt** – Catch the most different species of sea fish in UK waters (161 designated species).
2. **The Specimen Hunt** – Catch the largest specimen (38 species designated on reverse of Species Hunt card).

How to Enter Your Fish

Entries should be sent to specieshunt@anglingtrust.net with the subject “**Capture Report**”.

For the **Species Hunt** the email must include the following:

- Name & UPN of participant
- Name of species caught (please be specific e.g. rock goby, not just goby).
- Date & location of capture
- Photo with clearly visible fish & clearly visible Species Hunt card.

If you are submitting a fish for the monthly **Specimen Hunt**, please **also** include:

- Photo with tape measure clearly shown. You may use a measure other than the Tronixpro tape measure provided that it is accurate and visible on the photograph. We need to see the whole fish in the photo.
- Tactics used to catch the fish e.g. hooks, tackle, bait, etc.
- Weight of the fish (optional)
- Photo of you holding the fish – we love to publish lovely photos of our anglers! (optional)



Example Photo Species Hunt



Example Photo Specimen Hunt

We also request that photos show unbloodied fish as we want to promote a good image for the sport. This is especially important for the Specimen Hunt where pictures will be published online in various media.



Challenge Structure & Prizes

Yearly Prizes

Each year everything resets, so for anglers who competed last year – try to catch all the fish you caught again! We have two categories: **Senior** (16 & over on 31st March 2023) and **Junior** (under 16 on 31st March 2023). The prize structure is as follows:

Position	Senior	Junior
1 st	£350	£200
2 nd	£300	£150
3 rd	£250	£100
4 th	£200	£50
5 th	£150	£50
6 th	N/A	£50

The prizes will follow the format that the prize value highlighted is that of Tronixpro fishing tackle. This will be selected from the Tronixpro/HTO catalogue. Winners will be contacted via email when the competition closes.

A monthly prize of terminal tackle from Tronixpro will be sent out at the close of the competition to the best specimen winner each month. The specimen will be judged on size and rarity of capture by the panel, whose word is final.

Publication of Results

Results will be displayed in the following places each month:

Species Hunt Facebook group page: www.facebook.com/groups/specieshunt

Angling Trust website: www.anglingtrust.net/species-hunt

Each month within these publications the results displayed will be:

1. **Species Hunt** – The top 20 anglers overall in both categories
2. **Specimen Hunt** – The Specimen Hunt winner for the month

We can't wait to see the results as they start to unfold. Get fishing & and get your pictures to us – you never know, you could be one of the winners next month!

Upon entry your details will be stored on our secure systems in order to form a contact point for the competitions news. Your details will not be passed to any third party and will be for Angling Trust use only.

Good luck!

Angling Trust Species Hunt Team



Species Hunt 2023

IRONIXPRO



Rules & Guidelines

There are a few simple rules & guidelines, which are as follows:

- To take part you must be registered.
- Registration must be made via email to specieshunt@anglingtrust.net
- Abide by the safe handling of fish guidelines provided.
- All fish must be caught between the start and finish dates of the challenge.
- All fish must be caught using rod and line from the shore. This includes piers and breakwaters. Fish caught from boats or kayaks are not permitted.
- All fish must be considered saltwater species.
- Fish of any size can be entered into the Species Hunt competition.
- For fish to be considered for the Specimen Hunt it must be one of the species listed on the reverse of the Species Hunt card and must meet the minimum specimen length for that species.
- Entries must be submitted within 7 days of being caught or within 24 hours of the competition ending.
- To enter a fish into either the Species Hunt and/or the Specimen Hunt must send an email to specieshunt@anglingtrust.net with the subject "Capture Report". You must include the following:
 - Name & UPN of participant
 - Name of species caught (please be specific e.g. rock goby, not just goby).
 - Date & location of capture
 - Photo with clearly visible fish & clearly visible Species Hunt card.
- If you are submitting a fish for the monthly **Specimen Hunt**, please **also** include:
 - Photo with tape measure clearly shown. You may use a measure other than the Tronixpro tape measure provided that it is accurate and visible on the photograph. We need to see the whole fish in the photo.
 - Tactics used to catch the fish e.g. hooks, tackle, bait, etc.
 - Weight of the fish (optional)
 - Photo of you holding the fish – we love to publish lovely photos of our anglers! (optional)
- You can send in pictures of a species you have already entered into the Specimen Hunt if you catch a larger specimen than you have already entered (above criteria apply).
- Any questionable entries will be reviewed by a panel and the majority vote will be final decision. The entrant will be informed of the decision.
- Any entrants found to be cheating will be disqualified and removed from the challenges.

The most important rule is to go out there and have some fun, compete with your friends, and try new locations & styles of fishing!

Species Hunt Fish Handling Guidelines

As conscientious anglers, we should all strive to minimise stress and damage to any fish that we catch of any size promoting and encouraging safe fish handling practice. These guidelines will help to achieve that goal.

Plan ahead

Aim to safely land and return all fish as safely as possible on every fishing trip (*unless for the table*) and remember to take appropriate disgorgers, forceps, or long-nosed pliers with you.

Hook choice

Circle hooks can be used to safely catch and release fish, as they generally end up neatly hooking the fish in the mouth and not deep hook, use barbless hooks where and whenever possible, especially for the micro species.

Avoid dragging the fish

Avoid dragging the fish up the beach, rocks, quayside, or breakwater. Walk down to the water's edge to retrieve your catch, if possible, when required do take a drop or landing net.

Minimise handling

Try to handle your catch as little and as quickly as possible.

Wet your hands first

By wetting your hands first, you will maintain the fish's protective coating, never handle a fish with a dry towel.

Hold the fish horizontally

Hold the fish horizontally instead of vertically and when taking specimen photographs, support the fish from under its mid-section and its head.

Unhooking

Use a disgorger for unhooking fish. This will minimise handling time by properly removing the hook quickly and safely.

Deep hooked fish

When fish are hooked so deep that removing the hook is likely to damage or kill the fish, cut the line as close to the mouth as possible. Most hooks will dissolve or dislodge enabling the fish to live.

Keeping fish

If retaining fish for the table, dispatch them quickly to avoid unnecessary suffering.

Returning fish

Return fish as safely as possible by transporting them to the water's edge in your match bucket. Do not throw fish high in the air or over-arm lob them.

Photographing fish for your Species Hunt submissions

When photographing with your card, on a measure or next to a tape, choose the most appropriate surface, wet seaweed, moss, grass, or an un-abrasive surface is ideal. If you don't think it possible at a chosen venue, consider carrying an appropriate un-hooking mat.

Standard Species		Micro Species
Almaco jack	Perch [Dusky]	Anchovy
Angler fish	Plaice	Argentine
Bass	Pollock	Barracudina
Black fish	Pouting	Blackfish [Cornish]
Bluemouth	Pufferfish	Blenny [Black-Faced]
Blue runner	Ray [Blonde]	Blenny [Butterfly]
Bogue	Ray [Bottlenose]	Blenny [Montagu's]
Bonito	Ray [Cuckoo]	Blenny [Tompot]
Bream [Black]	Ray [Eagle]	Blenny [Viviparous]
Bream [Couch's Sea]	Ray [Electric]	Blenny [Yarrell's]
Bream [Gilthead]	Ray [Marbled Electric]	Boar Fish
Bream [Pandora]	Ray [Sandy]	Bream [Axillary-Sea]
Bream [Ray's]	Ray [Small-Eyed]	Bream [Saddled-Sea]
Bream [Red]	Ray [Spotted]	Butterfish
Bream [White-Sea]	Ray [Sting]	Clingfish [Shore]
Brill	Ray [Thornback]	Connemara Sucker
Bull Huss	Ray [Undulate]	Dab [Long Rough]
Catfish	Rockling [3-Bearded]	Dragonet
Coalfish [Saithe]	Rockling [Shore]	Garfish [Short-Beaked]
Cod	Salmon [Coho]	Goby [Black]
Comber	Scad [Horse Mackerel]	Goby [Common]
Dab	Sea Scorpion [Short-Spined]	Goby [Giant]
Dogfish [Lesser-Spotted]	Sea Trout	Goby [Leopard-Spotted]
Dogfish [Black-Mouthed]	Shad [Allis]	Goby [Painted]
Eel [Silver]	Shad [Twaite]	Goby [Red-Mouthed]
Eel [Conger]	Shark [Blue]	Goby [Sand]
Flounder	Shark [Mako]	Goby [Two-Spotted]
Forkbeard [Greater]	Shark [Porbeagle]	Goby [Rock]
Garfish	Shark [Six-Gilled]	Pilchard
Greater Weever	Shark [Thresher]	Pilot Fish
Greater Amberjack	Skate [Common]	Pipefish [Greater]
Guinean Amberjack	Smooth-hound [Starry]	Pipefish [Snake]
Gurnard [Grey]	Smooth-hound [Common]	Pogge
Gurnard [Red]	Sole [Dover]	Poor Cod
Gurnard [Streaked]	Sole [Lemon]	Red Band Fish
Gurnard [Yellow/Tubfish]	Spurdog	Rockling [5-Bearded]
Haddock	Sunfish	Rockling [4-Bearded]
Haddock [Norway]	Tadpole-fish	Sandeel [Corbin's]
Hake	Tope	Sandeel [Greater, Launce]
Halibut	Torsk	Sandeel [Lesser]
Herring	Triggerfish	Sea Scorpion [Long-Spined]
John Dory [St. Peter's Fish]	Tunny	Shanny
Ling	Tunny [Big-Eyed]	Skipper
Lumpsucker	Tunny [Long-Finned]	Smelt
Mackerel	Turbot	Smelt [Sand]
Mackerel [Atlantic Chub]	Whiting	Smelt [Sand Big-Scale]
Mackerel [Spanish]	Whiting [Blue]	Stickleback [15-Spined, Sea]
Megrim	Witch	Stickleback [3-Spined]
Monkfish	Wrasse [Ballan]	Topknot [Common]
Mullet [Golden Grey]	Wrasse [Cuckoo]	Weever [Lesser]
Mullet [Grey Thick-Lipped]	Wreckfish	Wrasse [Baillon's]
Mullet [Grey Thin-Lipped]		Wrasse [Corkwing]
Mullet [Red]		Wrasse [Goldsinny]
Opah		Wrasse [Rock Cook]
Pelamid [Bonito]		Wrasse [Scale-Rayed]