

General Notes And Information

Local Tackle Shops

Murphy's Tackle
92 North Main St
Wexford 053 24717

Hayes Cycles and
Fishing
108 South Main St
Wexford 053 22462

Dave's Tackle
Ardcavan Wexford
053 24307

S.E.A.i

South East Angling Ireland

www.bassfishing.ie

Information

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this guide is accurate at the time of print, no responsibility will be accepted by SEAI for errors or inaccuracies contained within this document



Angling Guides Available in This Series

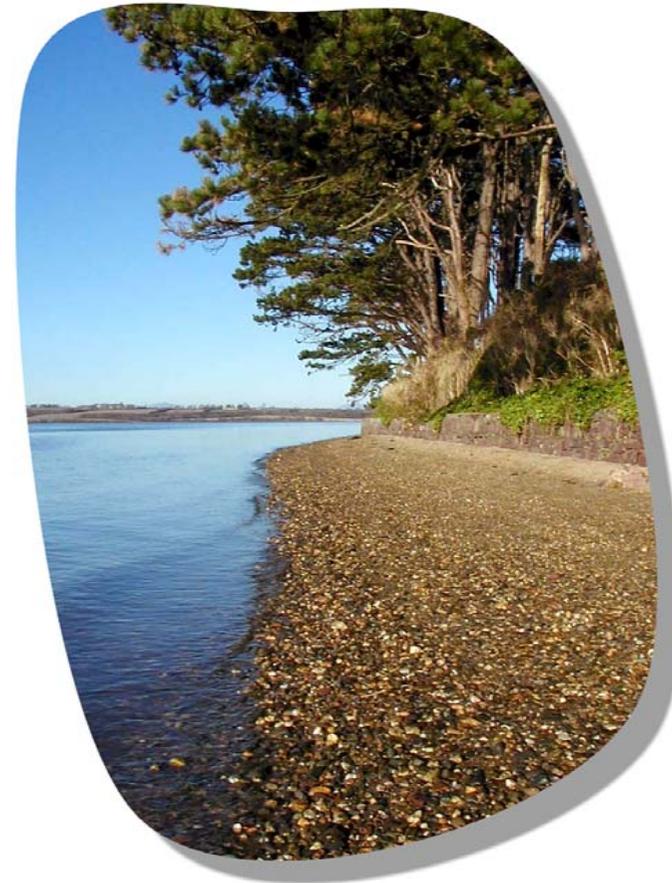
Part 1 North and East Co.Wexford

Part 2 Wexford Hbr

Part 3 South East Co.Wexford

Part
2
Of Three

Shore Angling on the Wexford Coast



Wexford Harbour

Ardcavan To Ferrycarrig

Part 2—Wexford Harbour

Introduction

Wexford Harbour There are several suitable locations situated within Wexford Hbr, some of which are within walking distance from the centre of town. The locations on the 'south' side of Wexford bridge are particularly accessible like—The train station, the new marina and the bridge itself. The North side locations are just that little bit further but Ferrybank and the Holy ground are still within walking distance. When you are fishing the North side of Wexford Bridge it is generally better to fish a falling tide, while on the south side of the bridge it is better to fish a rising tide. Mullet are present in the Hbr during the summer/autumn months and a concentrated effort should be made to catch them. There is a 2 fish limit on bass over every 24 hours and a closed season during May + June.

S.E.A.i

South East Angling Ireland

- Ardcavan and
- Ferrybank
- The Holy Ground and Kaats Strand
- The North Station and Boat Club
- The Point of Park and Ferrcarrig
- The New Marina and Wexford Bridge

NOTE

The harbour has witnessed the re-appearance of codling which has proved to be of great attraction to young anglers in the area, they tend to be somewhat varied in their patterns but can be caught during late spring. There has also been a corresponding rise in a number of different species caught in the harbour.

To contact us

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Tips and General Advice For Beginners

Weather

Day by day and hour by hour the weather is prone to change. This is important to the angler not only from a fish catching point of view but also the ability to remain fishing while feeling comfortable in any weather condition is often a necessary part of sea angling. If you are considering going fishing watch the weather forecast the day before, listen to the shipping forecast on radio or even read the forecast in daily newspapers. Go fishing well prepared because undoubtedly, the weather will change and often for the worse, when you are fishing keep a constant eye on wind direction, cloud cover, the height of the sun, all these factors help to add up to a successful days angling.

Tides

Combined with weather, tides play an extremely important, if not the most important part in successful sea angling. To help you find the right tide, tables are available from local shops and they are willing to help you read them. In general a rising tide over dawn, dusk or even during daytime is better than a falling tide during the day. Spring tides often bring fish closer to shore in some venues, while in others it may force them to move off until the tidal stream reduces. Over time and with experience it is often possible to select venues for success by combining the existing weather and tidal state.

Night Fishing

Night fishing on a lot of venues can be very successful, particularly on the north county beaches. A lot of species tend to move closer to shore under the cover of darkness, thus making them more accessible to the shore angler. Fishing at night is a whole new experience for many people and calls for some special equipment and increased care. If you are considering a night time trip it is probably best to venture out with an experienced angler for the first few sessions. Make sure you stay warm, have a bright headlamp or beach lamp, something warm to drink, know where you are going and can get back, and always tell someone what your intentions are.

Bait

If you cannot acquire your own bait it is available both fresh and frozen in the local angling shops, especially during the summer months. It is advisable to ring ahead of your trip to book your supplies. When you are out fishing it is often worthwhile taking the opportunity to search for bait holding areas in your vicinity, you cant beat fresh bait!

Quick notes and information

Getting there: Access to any of the venues covered in this guide is very easy and most are even within walking distance of Wexford town. There are small car parking areas at all of the locations and the Kaats stand is accessible by car. The most Northerly venue is Ard-cavan, from Wexford town take the coast road to Dublin the R741 and head for Curracloe, look for the wildfowl Reserve sign and take this right after the garage, Dave's Tackle is situated at the top of this road on your left.

Baits: Because a lot of the venues are intrinsically similar the baits used will follow a similar pattern. During summer – fresh peeler crab, fresh lugworm and ragworm all work very well. But be aware, there are lots of bait robbing crabs in the Hbr. During Autumn and Winter – Lugworm tipped with frozen mackerel or squid are ideal and can produce that extra fish during competition time especially if the weather has been cold and dry, small green fresh peeler crab, if you can get it, is very good for codling in the new marina.

Tackle: The seabed within Wexford Hbr is generally reasonably clean so tackle can be matched to this. There are patches of mixed sand and mud interspersed with mussel beds. With the exception of fishing right under Wexford Bridge or at the Selskar Rocks, it is very seldom that the angler should experience tackle loss. Be aware that when distance casting it is often possible to cast onto and over banks of mussels in the Hbr, it is advisable to set up mainline from 15lbs to 18lbs or even 20lbs in order for you to pull through them. The mussels also have a nasty habit of pinching off your snood. When fishing at Wexford Bridge be aware that some big fish are a possibility. The use of a large drop net might prove beneficial here as many fish are lost while anglers try to 'walk' them to a landing spot.

Terminal Rigs: Three hook flappers, two hook and three hook up/down variations all work well on these venues. At night try some luminous beads on your snoods to attract the flounder. Hook size should be in general around the size 1 even down as far as 4 with the exception of the Bridge, here I would advise an increase in hook size and strength even as far as a 3/0 or 4/0 as big bass are a distinct possibility

Facilities: Within Wexford town there are all the benefits of the major shops and facilities. There are two tackle shops located on the main Street one at the north end and one at the south. Dave's tackle is at Ard-cavan.

Ardcavan + Ferrybank



Directions: Straight over Wexford Bridge, and anywhere opposite Ely House or the Opel garage

Species: Flounder, eel, bass

Bait: Peeler crab, rag worm and lug worm

Terrain: Muddy bottom with some sandy patches and mussel beds

Ardcavan This venue is very popular with local anglers as it is an ideal location to obtain some fresh bait. Lugworm, ragworm, and peeler crab can all be obtained here and even if your not in the mood for some exercise Dave's tackle is situated at the top of the road. Ardcavan is not generally as prolific as other locations within Wexford harbour but can throw up the surprise flounder. Mullet can often be seen at the outflow of the slob lands during summer and bread flake seems to be the most successful bait here. If you are fishing in the area remember it is forbidden to walk along the embankment because of the wildfowl access the beach quickly to minimise disturbances.



Directions: Straight over Wexford Bridge, and turn right for the Riverbank Hotel. Parking is free.

Species: Flounder, eel, bass, mullet.

Bait: Peeler crab, rag worm and lug worm

Terrain: Muddy bottom with some sandy patches.

Ferrybank Located immediately over Wexford bridge to your right this venue offers ease of access and some good fishing. The area immediately behind the swimming pool is often used during competitions as flounder and silver eel are very common, it can also provide you with fresh bait on a low spring tide. Moving further into Wexford harbour you can fish along the area used by the commercial mussel dredgers. Tidal flow tends to be stronger here and grip leads are often necessary as the tide starts to run. Codling, flounder, bass, and even coalfish can all be caught here. The sea bottom can be snaggy and tackle losses should can be minimised with 'rotten-bottom rigs'. Two hook flappers—one up one down tend to work well with crab.

The Holy Ground + Kaats Strand



Directions: Straight over Wexford Bridge, and anywhere opposite Ely House or the Opel garage

Species: Flounder, eel, bass mullet

Bait: Peeler crab, rag worm and lug worm

Terrain: Muddy bottom with some sandy patches and mussel

The Holy Ground Situated within easy reach of Wexford town this venue provides easy access to some generous flounder, silver eel, and bass fishing. Driving or indeed walking across Wexford Bridge, the holy ground is situated in front of Ely House nursing home. The new houses to your left are built on the remains of the old Wexford Bridge. There are several hotspots along this stretch all waiting to be discovered. The ground on both the Kaats strand and the Holy ground tends to be muddy and mixed with sand/shingle with some intervening mussel beds. The 'box' area opposite Ely House is an ideal location to bring the younger angler. Falling tides are better at this side.



Directions: Straight over Wexford Bridge, left after the Opel garage and follow signpost. Accessible by car.

Species: Flounder, eel, bass.

Bait: Peeler crab, rag worm and lug worm

Terrain: Muddy bottom with some sandy patches and mussel beds

The Kaats Strand Take the next turn left after the Opel garage, then walking/driving down towards the cemetery take the next left (signposted). It is possible to drive along this beach but be aware of rising tides. There is some excellent flounder to be caught at this venue and there are several hotspots along the beach, the first is just at the end of the short wall on your left as you walk down the beach, the next is just after the short protection sea wall and the third is about 1.5 kms further along the beach to some old sea defences. It is often worthwhile plugging for bass at the sea wall during a rising spring tide when the wind blows down the harbour, several specimens have been caught here, again an ideal location for the young angler.

Catch Calendar for this region

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bass			1	2	3	4	5	5	3	2		
Coalfish	1										1	2
Codling	1		2	3	2					1	1	1
Conger												
Dogfish												
Flounder	1			1	2	3	3	3	4	5	3	2
Garfish						2	3	2	1			
Eel	1		1	1	2	4	4	4	3	2	2	1
Mullet				1	2	3	4	5	3	2		
Pollack									1	2	1	
Rockling			1	1	1				1	1	1	1
Sand dab												
Tope												
Smoothound												
Whiting												
Wrasse												
Chances	Low		Fair			Best			Fair		Low	
Catch Rate	4	0	5	9	12	16	19	19	16	15	9	7

How to Use the Catch Calendar

This calendar is not based on scientific evidence but on a number of observations made over several years while angling in the area. It is provided here, and in each of the five guides as an indicator to the angler as to what general species it is possible to catch in the area and when to catch them. I have graded a possible success rate of between 1 and 5. No number means you are very unlikely to catch this species at the time indicated. For example the chances of catching a bass in this area during April is indicated at 2 - which means you are likely to catch a bass in April here. However as you move across the page and the months move by, your chances improve steadily and the best time for catching bass here is during July and August indicated at 5. In fact if you look at the total catch rate at the bottom of the chart, August is indeed the best month to fish in this area for most species. It may be that in some years September may fish better or even July might be a success but this chart is merely a general guide over time.

Top Traces for success

Note Because of the comprehensive range of venues covered in this series, it was not possible to cover all the traces needed for each venue. Edition number seven which will be available in the Spring of 2004 will make a more comprehensive attempt in providing information into trace building, types of trace and their successful application.

The Three Hook Flapper. Probably one of the most versatile of all traces the three hook flapper can be used on most venues within Wexford Hbr to great success. A size 1 hook should cover most species and a decrease in size on some venues might be necessary. The trace body should be made from 50lb monofilament. Snood line should be between 10 and 15lbs bs using the lighter strain over cleaner ground can lead to more catches, use the stronger snoods over rough ground. A size 1 swivel for the top of the trace and size 3 for the snood lengths will be fine. Attaching beads and crimps can improve flounder.

The one up one down A variation on the three hook flapper is when one hook is fished below the lead and either one or two hooks are fished above the lead. There are times that when fish are feeding they will come to a lower hook rather than one fished slightly above the bottom. This variation allows you to cover both situations. Hook sizes, swivels and line should be the same as above. Try various combinations of beads as an added attraction for flounder red and yellow can sometimes be a successful combination. Try to place different baits on each hook at each cast until you find the right combo.

The Three hook trace with booms. Again a variation on the three hook flapper—attaching booms allows you to fish with bait away from the main trace and it helps in the general presentation of your bait. With a relatively short snood booms do tend to improve your chances of taking fish especially when they are responding to only a static bait. Booms are available in the local tackle shops in a variety of types. If fishing at night a large white type often improves your catch rate, while during the day a slimmer wire or green plastic version will suffice.

The North Station + Boat Club



Directions: Located to the left of Wexford bridge across the tracks opposite the flower shop.

Species: Bass, eel, flounder, mullet

Bait: Fresh peeler crab, lugworm, ragworm

Terrain: Mixed sand/mud and rock with some mussel beds

The North Station When you are standing on Wexford bridge and looking up the Hbr towards the mountains on your left hand side you will see some rocks, perhaps 50 yds from shore, these are the Selskar Rocks which are accessible through The North Station. Be careful when crossing railway lines, the station can be busy. Opposite the large warehouse in the station you can fish from a short bank quite comfortably. Target species here are bass, flounder and eel. It is worth mentioning that when the tide is falling and breeze is running up the river spinning in this area for Bass can prove to very successful, a one up one down trace with ragworm and crab works well also.



Directions: Situated within the Wexford station location

Species: Mullet, bass, flounder, eel.

Bait: Fresh peeler crab, lugworm, ragworm, bread flake—mepps spinners

Terrain: Mixed sand and mud

The Boat Club Look to your left of the Selskar rocks and you can see the Wexford Boat Club. I wouldn't recommend fishing from the club area during summer as it is very busy, but just below the club is an area which is accessible and provides the angler with one of the key mullet holding areas of the Hbr. During periods of settled summer weather on a high tide mullet tend to congregate in this area, particularly during evening time. Light float or spinning gear is essential and stealth tactics should be employed. Bread flake on small hooks can often prove deadly. One other method which proves successful is the use of a small mepps type spinner and attaching some harbour rag which can be dug here at low tide. Flounder are also abundant here.

The Point of Park + Ferrycarrig



Directions: Along the tracks past the Boat club and over small fence at start of point **BEWARE OF TRAINS**

Species: Bass, flounder, rockling and eel.

Bait: Peeler crab, ragworm and lugworm

Terrain: Rocky points and sand bars with mixed muddy patches

The Point of Park Again when fishing at the boat club or the Sel-skar rocks looking to your left you can see a point of land in the distance. This is where the river takes a major turn in direction towards Ferrycarrig. The point of park is accessible along the railway tracks but be careful of trains. Fishing at the point over a rising spring tide can produce some excellent bass particularly when conditions are rough. Light spinning gear with traditional baits like the Abu 'Krill' or the more traditional 'German bait' are very effective. Moving around the point towards Ferrycarrig and you will find some of the best flounder fishing in the Hbr, best time is a rising tide—and 3-hook flappers.



Directions: R730 from Wexford for 3 kms passing under the railway bridge parking on your left

Species: Bass, eel, mullet, flounder

Bait: Lugworm, ragworm, crab and light spinning tackle

Terrain: Mixed mud and sand

Ferrycarrig A favourite angling area for many years, unfortunately it has slipped somewhat into decline. Past experiences here are well remembered with recorded species like garfish, mullet, my first specimen bass, even sole, flounder and shad. Today you will still expect to catch bass and eel and there is a distinct chance that during periods of high pressure and settled weather that mullet can be targeted. Again tactics are similar to those used in the boat club area and if you try your hand at spinning there are often garfish among the mullet shoals. Ground fishing tends to be mixed with eel and flounder present and the best time is during late evening or early morning. Bets terminal rigs are the three hook flappers with size 1 hooks.

Skill Level—**All levels**

Facilities **No/Yes**

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The New Marina & Wexford Bridge



Directions: Situated in the mid section of Wexford Quays

Species: Pollack, bass, eel, codling, coalfish, rockling, mullet.

Bait: Squid, lugworm, peeler crab, ragworm.

Terrain: Very rough ground interspersed with sandy patches

The New Marina The newly constructed marina in Wexford Hbr provides access to the main channel of the river. Deep fast moving water provides the angler with the opportunity to enjoy some plugging for Bass, by allowing the plug to drift down or indeed up the harbour with the tide, it is often possible to cover a lot of ground to seek out those fish holding areas. A medium sized surface or mid-water lure should be used and particular attention should be paid to the site known as the 'Ballast bank'. Bass will often congregate along the rocks at the banks edge seeking baitfish and peeler crab. Codling can also be caught here particularly during late spring—peeler crab.



Directions: Situated on Wexford Quays

Species: Bass, flounder, eel.

Bait: Fresh crab, lugworm, ragworm and squid.

Terrain: Area beneath the bridge is rough in several areas else casting onto sand/mud/mussel

Wexford bridge Wexford bridge is very popular amongst the local angling fraternity, and it is often during the summer months that the bridge can be lined on both sides with people fishing. They all have one objective in mind—BASS. Over the years some excellent specimens have been caught from the bridge even though they are often quite difficult to land. The area continues to provide specimen fish every summer with the simplest of methods. A simple two hook paternoster baited with ragworm is lobbed over the handrails and the rod rested and often tied down—there are a lot of stories of disappearing gear! If you don't mind the busy traffic fishing here is a very sociable event—local fishermen will provide you with loads of info!

Skill Level—**All levels**

Facilities **Yes**

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