

EFSA European Species and Line Class Championships 2017 in Langeland, Denmark

This is the story of 57 anglers from 9 nation sections catching 4331 flatfish in two days:

For only the second time after 2011 EFSA Germany had invited the EFSA family to come to Langeland in Denmark to fish the species event targeting flatfish. As there was no line class category in Målløj earlier this year we fished for these pins as well.

Most anglers were arriving on Saturday, the 28th of October. There was a big storm brewing on the Sunday but the forecasts were good for the actual fishing days.

The organisers arranged a practise day on the Monday. At 7:30 in the morning each angler got their bait consisting of ragworm and sandeel from Angelcentrum Langeland. Thomas and Chris worked hard so that each pack was prepared well and anglers got their last bit of advice before the fishing started.

After a nice and sunny day at sea the opening of the competition followed in the evening of 30th of October. At registration each participating angler received their goody bag with amongst others the line for the line class event and a match measure each. It was up to each angler to choose to fish the line class or not.

The boat names were drawn to the already published boats – registration for pairs and teams of 4 followed. Thanks have to go to Chris Reinhardt and her daughters for patiently working through this!

Tuesday and Wednesday were the match days. The stewards handed out the bait, did the position draw and provided the anglers with the pastries and bread rolls sponsored by the local Dagli Brugsen supermarket.

With every fish scoring, 1 fish = 1 point with 10 points for fish over 40cm, the winning anglers were expected to be high in double figures – if not in the hundreds. As a catch and release competition most fish went back whilst the occasional larger specimen were kept for dinner.

The winds did not allow us to fish on the Lolland side of the Langeland Belt so we motored up north towards Tranekaer/Botofte. It turned out to be a very much Swedish and Danish affair that day with the top rods Magnus Landtblom (Swe, 109 points), Nichlas Eiberg Iversen (Den, 96 points) and Linus Nilsson (Swe, 92 points) leading the pack.

Day 2 of the competition followed the same time line as Tuesday. Again the skippers decided to head up northwards. As the scores were just added over the two days and not percentages to consider it was all still to fish for. Another day with large numbers of flatfish being caught followed.

Thursday was left as a reserve day. As we did not need it some anglers decided to go out fishing for pleasure but most used the day to get ready for their journeys home.

The evening was left for the gala dinner and the prize giving. Our HQ hotel, Skudehavn, laid on a huge buffet which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Thomas Reinhardt and Marcus Wuest hosted the prize giving ceremony.

Thanks went to anglers, skippers, sponsors and volunteering stewards without whom such an event would not be possible.

Our sponsors were:

- Ande Line
- Angelcentrum Langeland
- Glasgow Angling / Fishing Megastore
- Bluezone Fishing
- Dagli Brugsen Spodsbjerg
- Paladin
- Fairpoint
- Pure Fishing
- Spodsbjerg Havn
- Hotel Skudehavn
- IBI Bootsverleih Unterstützung
- Dagli Brugsen Spodsbjerg

Marcus thanked Thomas and his ladies for doing the registration, worms, laying out the prize table and moral support. EFSA Denmark assisted in sorting out the score cards and providing EFSA Germany with the clippers which saved of worries and costs.

On a personal note it helps to have friends within the EFSA family like Thomas but also Petter Skudal and Lars Hellum, Neil Bryant and Klaus Friedmann who consistently offered their support throughout 2017.

EFSA president, Horst Schneider, who fished the event too awarded the pins to the individual winners. Congratulations to all winning anglers. Well done!

Line Class category (full results published on efsafishing.org) :

- Gold: Andre Machiels (BEL, 145 points), Silver: Petter Skudal (NOR, 142 points), Bronze: Lars Hellum (NOR, 134 points)
- Best senior and winner of the Hamish Holmes memorial trophy Norbert Radziwill (GER, 105 points)

Species event (full results published on efsafishing.org):

- Individual champions: Gold: Magnus Landtblom (SWE, 176 points), Silver: Linus Nilsson (SWE, 176 points), Bronze: Nichlas Eiberg Iversen (DEN, 174 points)
- Senior winners: Gold: Norbert Radziwill (GER, 105 points), Silver: Søren Kristensen (DEN, 105 points), Bronze: Svend Åge Madsen (DEN, 102 points)
- Pairs winners: Gold: Linus Nilsson & Magnus Landtblom (SWE, 352 points)
- Teams of 4 winners: Gold: Michael Lorenzen & Martin Hubert & Nichlas Eiberg Iversen & Benny Johansson (629 points)
- National Teams winners: Gold: Sweden (664 points), Denmark A (540 points), Denmark B (454 points)
- Executive Teams of 3: Gold: Matt Osborne (ENG), Linus Nilsson (SWE), Cees Vader (Den)
- Life Member: Gold: Petter Skudal (NOR), Silver: Lars Hellum (NOR), Bronze: Herbert Schaffner (GER)

This concluded a successful championship that saw 4331 fish being caught. EFSA England chairman, Neil Bryant, said a few words inviting anglers to join them next year for their species cum line class event in Weymouth, England, targeting conger eels.

Marcus Wuest on behalf of the organising committee