

Great turbot revival



THE GREAT turbot fishing days aren't over, I'm happy to report. News of a new Channel Island record king-size flatie weighing **28lb 2oz** lifts every boat anglers' heart and reminds him of the old days.

That was back in the mid 70s and 1980s, when the national weekly angling press regularly published pictures of anglers hanging over the stern of top-charter boats showing the world their amazing catches of 30lb-plus specimens.

Sadly, catches like that didn't continue, although while the sandbanks of the English South Coast did turn up the occasional good fish, it was always the turbulent banks and bars just off Alderney and Jersey in the Channel Islands that threatened to produce exceptional fish and possibly a new British record-breaker.

Now Bournemouth angler Mike Whitehurst has proved all the pundits right by hauling up a huge 28lb 2oz fish, which is not only a local record (it beats it by some 9oz) but is just 5lb 10oz short of the current 33lb 12oz national record-

breaker, caught by Roger Simcox off Salcombe, South Devon in 1980.

Mind you, we hear that Mike's fish didn't come easy. Fishing had been hot and tough and it wasn't until the last drift of the day, while fishing aboard the Poole-based Random Harvest, skippered by Andy Adams, that the super-specimen grabbed his lance bait.

Evidently, Mike had double cause for celebration - the magnificent 28-pounder is his first-ever boat-caught turbot.

So you know where to go if you have never caught a turbot or want a heavy-weight that chases the British record!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mel Russ".

COMPETITION WINNERS

May Cono-flex winners

Mr M Snigg, Warendon, Worcestershire.
Roy Blake, Totton, Southampton, Hants