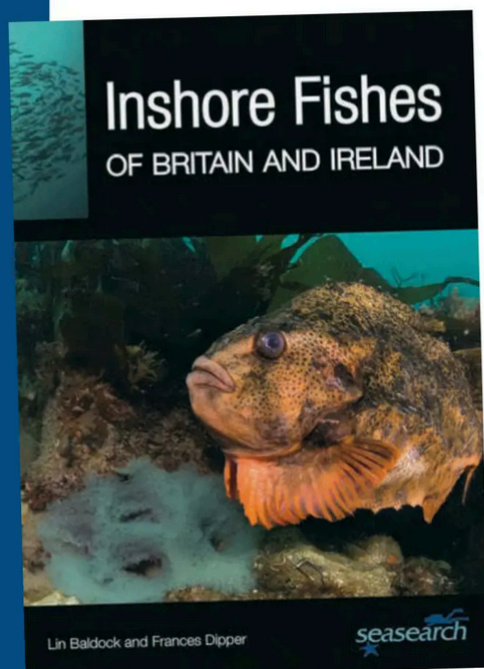


SEA ANGLER SELECTS

Even the most seasoned angler will not know every species in our waters, and with the rise of species hunting and ultra-light tackle, it has never been more useful to know your blue skate from your Montagu's blenny. This month we choose the three best fish identification books, with the help of conservationist and author, Josh Pickett



INSHORE FISHES OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND

(LIN BALDOCK & FRANCES DIPPER, 2023)

A beautifully put together book and the most modern on this list, we can recommend it as our top identification guide for all sea anglers. The beautiful underwater photography really sets this book apart from the others. Trying to work out what you have caught, or maybe want to catch, can sometimes be daunting, but the authors here have done a remarkable job in conveying the details without becoming overly scientific. Certainly the one to beat in the UK.

Josh says, "A book with so much to say, but told in a wonderfully concise manner, not a word on the page is wasted; with plenty of useful keys, gorgeous photographs of fishes in their respective biotopes, and is one of only a handful of books recognising broad single species variation throughout in an identification context."

■ RRP £22

■ Available at www.summerfieldbooks.com

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO THE INSHORE FISH OF THE BRITISH ISLES

(DR PETER HENDERSON, 2015)

A firm favourite in the Light Rock Fishing scene in the UK, there are many who swear by this book as the species bible. Regularly quoted in species hunting forums and social media groups, this book is responsible for many unusual fish being entered and accepted in competitions. Most of the identification photos are of the fish out of the water, which is helpful to the angler, and have many comparisons to similar species. Of all the books in our list, this one feels like the most angler-centric, and it never feels like it is alienating the reader, especially those who fish.

Josh says, "The text in Pete's book is concise. Using mostly dead specimens for its photos has some drawbacks, but I think it's better than the other books in an academic setting where markings do not play a factor in descriptions or examining wet specimens. I do appreciate Pete's short annotations on angling in the book, and the inclusion of meristics is also a nice touch."

■ RRP £25

■ Available on www.piscesconservation.com

