

Chypraze Fishing

May 2006



Carn Clough

The Rose Stream that flows past the farmhouse that used to flush the barns and power tin ore crushing rams holds no fish, believe me, I have looked!

No – its time to put the match boxes away and head for the sea.

There are a number of spectacular rock fishing points along Chypraze's coastline but only two are recommended as sufficiently safe and accessible for our guests. Even then you must be fit enough to clamber down 300ft of steep pathways, and back.

The nearest point is **Clough Carn**, pronounced Clooj if you come across a local.

Tackle: Spinning gear is the favourite for Pollack and Mackerel. Bass are occasional visitors. You will need a stout carp rod, bass rod, a bespoke rock spinning rod or a light beach caster. Attach a large open face reel filled with 15lb line. I use 10or 12lb Maxima – but then I've been there before. End tackle is simple; attach small rubber eels to a 3ft 10lb trace blood knotted to a stout swivel. Put a 2oz ball lead onto the main line followed by a bead and blood knot the mainline to the other end of the swivel. Bob's your uncle. Take a pack of frozen sand eels with you as an alternative lure. For these you will need size 4 or 6 rear barbed hooks.

Float fishing is also a fun option using a large polystyrene sea float weighted with 1-ounce ball lead. Trace as before with sand eel as bait. Let the float slide up the line and stop it at about 10ft with piece of elastic band tied to you main line small enough to get through the rod rings. Don't waste your money on worm at this venue! West Cornwall Angling in Penzance will provide all necessary gear.

Ready to go? Check the weather and the tide (Radio Cornwall) Aim to have 2 hours before and 1 hour after high tide. From the back door you can see the sea. If there is lots of white water around the lighthouse headland don't bother – head to the south coast. If it's raining don't bother. If all looks reasonably fine and calm then go.

Take windproof jacket, tough trousers and shoes that won't slip on granite. Tell somebody what time you will be back and allow half an hour to get back from Clough and an hour from Grebe. It is best to go with company. Carry your gear in a rucksack.

Directions: For Clough go down the beach path past the low wall on the left and on to where it turns sharp left to the beach. At this point go straight on and up into the last little field and head for the far right hand corner. Climb over wall at the corner and follow the path on and up to the right heading for the rocky outcrop. When you reach it walk around with the rock pinnacle on your left. You will now have the dizzying view of the sea and rocky coast below you. You need to head down the spine if the headland straight ahead.

This is steep in places – take care. Don't be tempted to head to the right down the grassy slope, it looks easier but takes you too close to the edge. Step down the spine into a grass bottomed granite box, the sea appears then on the left. In front of you is a memorial plaque that will disappear soon. Take the exit to the right between rocks and clamber down keeping the rock close on your left. You will now be on rock table sloping away from you. Sit down and move carefully till you reach the edge of the rock. Here is the tricky bit, you will need to lower yourself onto the next rock. Don't worry its only 5 ft.

You are now at the fishing level but you need to go round to the left where you will find comfortable casting positions.

Cast as far as you can and vary the draw. You can let the weight sink to the bottom at 50 yards where it is sand but reel in rapidly bearing in mind the bit in between is strewn with boulders. Dawn or dusk this is a fantastic place. Fish have to be hauled up 20 feet. Expect to lose bits. This ledge is beyond the reach of normal waves. Do not be tempted to go lower. If waterspouts are appearing in front of you go home. If it's getting dark you should already be home.

For Grebe: Again leave by the back door but this time head off to the right of the outside loo and over the gate into the first field. Follow the tractor tracks up through the next two fields. Clamber over the low wall on the left into a field growing gorse and rocks. Follow the path to the corner where you can step through a gap in the next wall. You will now be on the coastal path. Follow this to the right (northeast) until you reach a stile next to a square ruin. Turn round and walk back about 100yards looking for a faint path off to the right. It may be obscured by bracken. If you find it follow it seawards and it will take you down to a little headland and another supreme rock mark.

Watch the weather!

Tackle Shop



Tackle shops are few and far between in this part of the world. The nearest, **West Cornwall Angling**, (Post Code TR18 4LY) is near the Queens Hotel on the front between Penzance and Newlyn. They carry plenty of bait and lures and lots of chat.

Here you can book boat trips for everything from mackerel to shark fishing.

Chypraze guests visiting these fishing marks do so entirely at their own risk.