



FIPS-ed 7th World Championships Boat Fishing with Lures

A short blog from NCCFI Predator Team Ireland attending this year's championships and how they achieved 7th place and the big fish award!

Wednesday 1st Oct: The moment arrives; a long awaited trip that we had been losing countless hours sleep over the weeks leading up to the event to be held at Aix-les-Bains on Lake Bourget overlooking the Swiss Alps.

The night before was spent checking our gear and packing, suitcases were packed tight with all our lure boxes, hard and soft, jig heads, chatter baits and 'you name it' was in them. The problem was keeping the weight down to the 20kg limit enforced by the airlines so we measured each case and then split the excess weight in to the lighter bags. We were not going to leave anything behind!

Rods were carefully selected and picked on weight range and capability to match every single situation we may have come across leaving nothing to chance.



NCCFI Predator Team Ireland

6am - up and meeting at the team captain's home before we left and all gear was carefully loaded into the van. The atmosphere was ecstatic! First stop on the way to Dublin airport was a visit to Main Irish Angling who has sponsored our team through thick and thin. Derek provided us with the necessary gear and sponsorship to enable us to compete at international level.

Upon arrival at Lyons airport we immediately noticed how hot it was, well into the 20's not what we were expecting for October – but we would quickly adapt. The hire car was picked up, a bit wonky but ok, it took a bit of getting used to say the least and don't even mention toll gates and crash barriers!

Preparations – the rest of the day was spent unpacking and preparing for the first day's practise. We had never seen the lake but expected it to fish very hard as it was very deep even around the edges; drops of 20 to 30meters were common with depths to around 200 meters in places. Many of the teams had spent months on the competition venue and some had a few practice days here and there, we are proud to say we had none and just planned to do what we do best!





Thursday 2nd Oct - Day

One Practise: Fishing was very slow Andrew & I started in the most southern part of the lake whilst Lindsay and Colin took the more northern point. Both pairs stopping and trying different areas here and there, picking off small undersized pike but then slowly Andrew and I started hitting some good sized pike with jerk baits as close to the edge



Lindsay McFadden

as possible with Andrew hitting in to the first good fish at around 75cm. We noticed dull colours worked best so continuing with this technique we managed another 3 pike which were above the 50cm minimum size limit. I was astonished to have 2 pike hitting into my brand new Predator Nation dagger jerk bait at exactly the same time at one point!

After a few hours it was back to team HQ quarters to discuss our findings. Colin & Lindsay had caught too but between us we agreed we should try darker colours on the next practice day.

Friday 3rd October Day Two Practise: Very frustrating as Andrew and I blanked fishing at the northern end of the lake but Colin and Lindsay had hit into fish on the southern part of the lake using black lures which was promising as this is where Andrew and I had caught the day before. All good news so we quickly adapted soft lures and jerk baits with added spinner tails in the most black colour we could find, some even got a touch up with a permanent marker just to make sure they fitted the bill! Bring on tomorrow!

The opening ceremony was held that night and all the teams presented themselves on stage the photography flash was blinding, TV cameras from across the globe filming your every move, food was provided and wine bottles uncorked..... Fortunately captain's orders were we had to get an early night.





Saturday 4th October Day One Competition:

The next morning we had our boat draw each boat was in ranging from 40hp to 250hp so we needed good boats for the team each day . It was vital to get fast boats as competition time was critical with target zones at around 5 miles from the launch point. Thankfully we had the fortune of good luck and were blessed with fast boats each day such as Tracker, Nitro and Lund.

All boats were marked A or B due to the amount of boats; group A would go first followed by group B and this would be reversed on day two to give everyone a fair chance.

Captains meetings were fantastic fun and our captain Colin Rutherford was always on the ball with the most recent advancements on the competition area at all times. Points raised included the use of drop-shotting, lure rigging, added weights and even anchoring boats with a new element each day - you never knew what was going to come next.



Our transport

So to the competition - it was yet the hardest fishing with only Colin and Lindsay's boat taking one fish above 50cm and Andrew and I catching but all were immeasurable. We didn't feel so bad as many nations did not even get one fish and these are the most professional lure anglers in the world, and it goes to show you how hard this venue was to crack. However, Andrew and I had one very large fish follow a slow fished jerk bait right to our boat but decided not to take – don't worry we marked the spot!



Colin, Team Captain and Lindsay

We soon discovered that France had taken day one and were in first place; England was 7th and we had managed 11th place. The biggest fish was only 79 cm and 5 nations blanked altogether so we counted our lucky stars, and going forward we knew we could change this with only a few fish.





Sunday 5th Oct Day Two Competition: Was cooler and overcast with rain was expected after mid day. We all went back to the drawing board but we had seen fish in certain areas and knew the southern part of the lake was proving better.

Colin & Lindsay decided to take same pattern as day one with Andrew and I going back to the spot where we had located the big pike the day before. Day Two was to be our turning point as within the hour I had boated a pike in excess of 30lbs measuring a whopping 117cm. It was on light gear and nerve racking to say the least, the fish taking jerk bait supplied Monarch Dok. We knew from that moment we had won the big fish trophies as this was going to be hard to beat. Already in high spirits we were delighted that within ten minutes we received a message that Lindsay had taken an 82cm pike in their



selected zone just 20 minutes into the competition. Ecstatic we fished on hoping to gain a few more fish but it was slow with only one jack caught. Then the fishing slowed more as the weather started to turn in at around 3pm and the poor conditions meant an early

finish to the competition around 4pm.

We eagerly awaited the results in the hotel and it wasn't long until they had posted them up – looking through all the scoring was like looking at a maze of names and numbers – but had we done it – yes we had – we were overwhelmed with our results a fantastic effort and a sign of true determination and beating many many teams in the process – childhood dreams coming true and the feeling of success and a learning curve we were never going to forget.





Us on the World stage

NCCFI Predator Team Ireland would like to say a very big thanks to all our sponsors who made this possible for us; Monarch Dok lures, Vass waders & rainwear, Barracuda Fishing Tackle in Dungannon, Main Irish Angling in Dublin, Predator Nation for their lures & gear, Printbiz for our fab team wear, Bumble Lures, Candy Plastics, Tomi Guided Fishing, the NCCFI, Waterways Ireland, Inland Fisheries Ireland and all those who supported our first Predator Tournament on the River Erne recently.

The End Result

As a team we are ranked 7th in the world – delighted!

As a pair Steven and Andrew came first on day 2 out of 16 nations and won the big fish prize of the championships – priceless!

Heads held high and proud to be doing what we do best



**Here she is – the largest fish of the World Championships!
117cm in length weighing in excess of 30lbs.**





If you think you have got what it takes and you're not afraid of fish with teeth, join the predator club now and get involved! www.facebook.com/NCFIPredClub



Blog written by Steven Powell on behalf of NCFI Predator Team Ireland.

Team members:

Lindsay Mc Fadden

Andrew Powell

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Colin Rutherford – Team Captain



Brothers Andrew & Steven and their Big Fish Trophies

