

“Know your FISH - Connaissez vos POISSONS”

How this fish/crustaceans/shellfish pocket book came about ...

In 2001, a chance meeting with a retired Army Major holidaying in Port-Tudy, Ile de Groix, France, highlighted a well known recurring problem to British sailors fond of fish.

“Does your English-French Sailing Companion cater for us”? *he asked.*

Well I thought it contained sufficient information about food and in particular about fish. But after a while, he declared: *Not so as far as fish connoisseurs are concerned !!!*

The criteria for the pocket book must be, *I was informed:*

- Sufficiently small to be carried in one’s coat pocket
- Easily opened
- Must have a comprehensive list of different names for a particular fish
- The cost of the publication must be negligible!

A tall order if I ever saw one but the list started with 60 odd terms supplied by a friend to whom I recounted my chance meeting in South Brittany.

Over the months, the list grew and grew . . . As the research went on, I discovered that a particular fish had indeed different names, according to the region visited. Worst of all, I also discovered that a particular fish name was shared by different fish species!!! How do you solve that problem I hear you say?

Well, the answer is in the book which contains over 1400 terms.

I am sure the retired Army Major would be pleased to know that three of his criteria have been duly fulfilled. The last one cannot be met as yet as I cannot ask him if he agrees with me about the price of the publication. The reason is: “I can no longer find his address”!!!

Bon appétit