



**Agenda Item C5
Recreational Angling Report
Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Quarterly
report for the period June 2022 to October 2022**

Overview

Very hot weather and strong winds made the fishing challenging throughout the summer months, good catches were made by the anglers who persisted during these trying conditions.

As the typical autumn weather started, south-westerly gales and colder nights, a run of small cod has made a welcome appearance, these have ranged from just undersize to 5-6lb in weight. Fingers crossed more appear throughout the winter, to give anglers a chance to catch something different from the usual undersize whiting.

KEIFCA Progress

Officers have been out and about patrolling various angling venues within the district, issuing minimum size ruler sticker when required and reminding anglers about the current Bass regulations. Disappointing, it has been necessary to issue warnings to a minority of anglers about the size of fish being retained.

Kent Angling Summary

The shore along the North Kent Coast fished well for bass and smoothhounds, with the occasional thornback ray also being caught. At times it was impossible to avoid the seasonal green weed that has plagued the anglers over the last few years.

The South Kent shoreline produced mackerel, bass, plaice and smoothhounds regularly, with thornback rays a welcome catch. Dabs, sole and small cod have also been reported.

All the piers in Kent when open have fished well adding to the species list already reported, with wrasse, conger, pollack and pouting.

Whiting and lesser spotted dog fish have been showing at all venues on the Kent coast.

At the time of writing small cod are being caught from most of the southern beaches, with the odd cod coming from the north coast of Kent.

Essex Angling Summary

Southend Pier has produced Conger eels and squid, along with bass, thornbacks, and dog fish, Walton pier has also been fishing well with bass, thornbacks and small whiting making up the catches.

Bass of varying sizes, flounder, sole, dogfish and thornbacks have been caught all the way along on the beaches in Essex

The Crouch and Black Water Estuaries have had consistent fishing with thornback Ray, flounder and Bass featuring in catches

Small codling has been caught from most venues in Essex, with the numbers increasing as winter approaches.

Inner Thames and River Medway

Further up the Thames and in the River Medway, Bass, flounder, and eels have made up most of the catches, soles have been targeted and caught by a few lucky anglers, now as winter approaches small whiting have started to reappear in numbers.

Boat fishing

Both Charter boats and private angling boats have reported good catches of Bass and smoothhounds throughout the summer. With many of the charter vessels taking their full quota of bass for the anglers aboard. As winter approaches small cod are showing in enough number to be able to targeted by skippers

Tope had been targeted in the summer, by a few of the Essex charter vessels with various levels of success.

The Ramsgate charter boats have been able to target bass, smoothhounds within a couple of miles of the harbour and those who ventured further conger, small cods, and thornback ray.

David Deverson,
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer.