



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

**Overview**

With recent storms and periods of very strong winds punching through the district, fishing halted for a little while. Several piers were reported damaged, and re-opening times paused. However, in the calm before and after the storm the district has been fishing well. The cold north-easterly wind has calmed down slightly, and recent reports are looking good. Good-sized rays and smoothounds have been showing up district wide. Anglers are reporting fast hooks and some even a fish a cast. Bass have also started to come up in good size and numbers and even the odd spring codling has been reported.

**KEIFCA Progress**

As of December, the 2022 bass fishing guidance details the restrictions for recreational anglers catching European Seabass, where they are limited to catch-and-release only during 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2022. From March, anglers have been allowed to keep 2 bass per person per day. KEIFCA officers have continued to patrol and inspect anglers along the KEIFCA shorelines and piers, handing out the minimum size ruler sticker when required.

KEIFCA Key Minimum Sizes for Anglers business cards have been given to pier operators at angling hotspots around the district. These are being given to anglers when a ticket is purchased for private piers where you must pay to go fishing. These efforts will help to increase awareness of minimum sizes, particularly among visiting anglers from outside the district, and those that are new to the sport.

**Kent Angling Summary**

North Kent beaches have been fishing well and anglers have reported catches of rays, whiting and dogfish - plaice have been coming up in decent numbers too. Deal Pier has been busy, returning a nice variety of fish. Anglers night fishing between Minnis Bay and Grenham Bay have reported catches of big bass and smoothound. Consistent catches of good-sized rays, dogfish, whiting and pouting have also been reported along the coast.

Admiralty Pier re-opened to anglers in March and has since been returning plenty of fish. A number of conger eels have been caught, along with whiting, dogfish, a few bass and even a codling. The first weeks of April saw a few hounds and rays caught off the pier and the first lot of mackerel started to show in early May. All in all, the pier has been fishing well.

Samphire Hoe has also been fishing up to standard, with reports of wrasse, dogfish, pollack, and pouting. Folkestone Arm has been seeing plaice, dabs, rays and bass caught, with the usual dogfish making an appearance.

Plenty of good-sized bass have been coming up between Dover and Folkestone, with anglers from the beaches reporting returns of smoothounds, dogfish, whiting, dabs, flounders and plaice. One fishing match west of Dungeness saw over 200 plaice caught between 11 anglers.

### **Essex Angling Summary**

Reports of small whiting, dogfish and bass are being caught around the Essex coast. There is still few whiting about, but skate fishing has reportedly been good and the rays have been showing up in numbers. Clacton pier has had reports of the odd small bass, whiting, sole and skate. Recent reports reveal that Walton pier has been slow fishing, with whiting and dogfish making up the majority of catches. Some anglers have reported a nice mixture of fish with rockling and dabs making an appearance, and a few flounders inshore for the anglers that target them. Great sport is also being made with the early spring bass.

Angling matches have been underway in Essex, with a variety of fish showing up in numbers. Consistent catches of rays, dogfish and whiting have been keeping the anglers happy, with lucky anglers bending their rods for codling, dabs and early smoothound.

### **Inner Thames and River Medway**

Fishing in both rivers has been steady. Catches of whiting and dogfish are being reported for both rivers, with bass making an appearance at some Medway and inner Thames marks.

### **Boat fishing**

The charter boats have been on the hounds and rays. As the hound fishing is improving, boats are starting to see more bass in between the tides. Anglers have been hoping that the SW wind will kick in, bringing better conditions for the bigger fish. Evening trips are soon to start for many boats for anglers to enjoy the fish while it's there.

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