



**Agenda Item C5
Recreational Angling Report
Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Quarterly
Report for the period May 2023 to September 2023**

Overview

A wide variety of species has been seen around the district, with anglers being in with a reasonable chance of catching their targets. Conger eels from the shore or piers, Black Sea bream, gurnards and sting rays, plus the usual summer species have made for a good summer's fishing.

Mackerel has become the new topic of discontent with social media now deciding that despite there being no quota for anglers in place, taking home more than a handful was to be frowned on.

KEIFCA encourage anglers to think about the number of fish they are taking home and to be sure that it is all being used.

KEIFCA Progress

Angling shops have been visited and minimum size stickers handed out. KEIFCA officers have been patrolling angling hotspots throughout the district, checking for compliance to minimum sizes and other regulations. Minimum size stickers and business cards have continued to be distributed to anglers.

Kent Angling Summary

The spread of green weed along the north Kent coast has meant that anglers have had to work hard, but the fish have been worth it with good smoothhounds and bass being caught. On the piers and in the south of the district mackerel have been caught in good numbers, with bigger fish than usual being kept. Rough ground and piers have produced congers as well as smoothhounds, wrasse and dogfish.

Essex Angling Summary

Smoothhounds, bass, soles and thornback rays are being caught on the Essex side of the Thames. The odd conger is also being caught off the piers.

Inner Thames and River Medway

Bass, flounders, grey mullet and soles were being caught further up the rivers, with European eels being caught in good numbers.

Boat fishing

Anglers using both charter and recreational dinghies have been able to find good fishing at times, with smoothhounds or bass making up the catch. Catching mackerel has been harder this year due to the large number of undersize bass that have been taking feathers intended for mackerel. In fact, most private boats have indicated that they are staying away from bass chasing fry on the surface due to the large number of small ones. Congers and thornbacks have also featured in catches. A few tope have been reported by boats fishing on the sandbanks in the outer Thames.

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