



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

**Overview**

Bass is being reported, with large quantities of small ones up to 43cm and a good amount of the 55cm plus fish, with a few double figure fish showing up. However, the 45-55cm fish are not so noticeable, possibly as a result of this class is not in the district or it was a bad spawning year.

The warm weather has held on long into the beginning of November, with summer fish still being caught. Multiple catches of species are now possible.

**KEIFCA Progress**

KEIFCA officers have been looking into designing new cards and stickers for next year. Angling shops have been visited with minimum size stickers being handed out. KEIFCA officers have been patrolling angling hotspots throughout the district checking for minimum sizes and other regulations. Minimum size stickers and business cards have continued to be distributed to anglers.

**Kent Angling Summary**

Bass are being caught all around the Kent coast, with multiple catches happening with conger eels, thornbacks and smoothhounds still featuring in catches. Mackerel was still being caught up to the end of October with squid becoming the new target species for many with 40cm long squids being reported. The whiting has just started to show up in numbers, and one or two codlings have been caught. Soles, dabs, flounders, plaice and european eels are also being caught.

**Essex Angling Summary**

The fishing on the Essex side of the Thames, mirrors the Kent side with large and small bass being caught, thornbacks, smoothhounds and spotted dogfish. Whiting have just started to turn up in numbers and fishing for flatfish is proving to be good with soles, flounders and the occasional dab being caught. With strap congors and European Eels being also caught it is proving to be an interesting autumn.

The Essex piers have been fished well with most species being able to be targeted

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

Flounders and soles are being targeted up the rivers, but mainly small bass are getting to the baits first. The odd sizeable bass is being caught, along with the European Eel. Smoothhounds and spotted dogs have been reported further up than usual.

### **Boat fishing**

The charter skippers are showing good catches on social media of decent bass, and all the anglers with two bass each. Good sport is also being had with smoothhounds and thornbacks, with the odd codling also being caught. Rough ground fishing is producing strap congers regularly, with the chance of a big bass. Recreational dinghies have also had the same quality of sport and are able to get their limit of bass if desired.

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