



Agenda item C5

Sea Angling Report October-December 2014

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Summary : To report on the Recreational Sea Angling Sector activity in the KEIFCA District

KEIFCA Progress

This period saw KEIFCA continue to work on bass both in the district and on a national level. Within the district shore patrols were undertaken throughout the period at popular angling locations to talk to anglers and distribute minimum size stickers and cards produced specifically for the angling sector.

Essex Angling Summary

Reports from the shore indicated that catches of small bass and flounder were fair at the start of the period in the Thames and mullet was providing good sport around Southend Pier.

Clacton and Walton Piers produced good catches of thornback rays, dogfish and whiting and the odd codling at the start of October. Some small bass were still seen at the start of the period but reports tapered off as water temperature went down. Late October into November saw more sole reported by anglers fishing from the shores of the Thames up to Tilbury and Gravesend than had been in the previous period. Catches of codling gradually increased from fair to good throughout the period until mid-December in the outer Thames and Wallet area as water temperatures continued to drop.

Angling boats in Essex were able to enjoy the occasional larger codling by the end of October and into November with catches up to 4lb. Reports were received of bait often being taken by dogfish and small whiting. Catches of thornback rays continued to be good through into mid- November before slowing down, however, those targeting them with fresh herring were still successful well into the start of December around the Maplin sands and into the Thames.

Kent Angling Summary

Catch reports from the Deal Pier area indicated that catches were fair to good throughout the period with codling around 1 ½ lb on average being common throughout most of the period, along with good numbers of large channel whiting, large pouting, and dogfish. Reports also indicated that anglers were seeing the occasional smoothhound from the pier well into November. Also regularly caught when using fresh herrings as bait were thornback rays throughout October, November and into the early part of December. Larger cod were not seen from the shore for most of the period but catches of codling improved with fish up to 4lb being caught as turbidity increased with the arrival of more regular easterly winds in December.

Reports from the southern parts of the district around Dungeness were similar to the Deal area during much of the period but with the addition of good numbers of dabs and the usual increased number and size of cod that is generally expected from Dungeness and greater numbers of bass as well. Also seen in November were a number of coalfish.

By late November reports of cod over 5lb became common with the largest fishes reported at the end of October at 14lb 6oz and late November at 13lb 9oz. The number of whiting continued to be high throughout the period causing problems for some anglers who were unable to get the cod through the mass of whiting.

Boats fishing the southern part of the district saw good catches of cod throughout the period with many boats regularly reporting catches of double figure cod and some of 20+ lb from November onwards as well as reports of congar eels when fishing around the wrecks.

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Angling Officer/IFC Officer