



Agenda item B2

By: Chief and Assistant Chief Officers

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – Technical Panel 6 March 2015

Subject: Draft Policy Statement

Classification Unrestricted

Summary: to discuss a the drafting of a Policy Statement in relation to the efforts to be undertaken by KEIFCA

In an effort to best summarise and communicate KEIFCA’s position to others and to help focus our organisations efforts and resources the following policy statement has been drafted.

Draft Policy statement

- ICES advice shows that Bass stocks are being over exploited and management actions need to be developed and quickly.
- KEIFCA strongly supports the development of an EU bass management plan and the need for bass management measures to be introduced as fairly as possible over the range of the stock
- KEIFCA wants to work closely with partner organisations (defra, IFCAs, EA, CEFAS and the MMO) as well as the all the different local sectors fishing for bass in the district.
- Management measures need to be apportioned as fairly as possible between the different sectors that fish for bass.
- Legislation developing nursery areas and spawning areas are best developed and managed by regional fisheries managers.
- KEIFCA will prioritise developing nursery areas and building and developing an evidence base for bass spawning areas.
- Potential management measures such as; an increase in minimum size, an increase in mesh sizes and catch limits for commercial and recreational

fishermen, would be best introduced on as large a spatial scale as possible. KEIFCA will review the progress of national and international management measures at the November Authority meeting and reassess the need for regional management measures at his point.

The Technical Panel are asked to discuss the statement and recommend wording.