

## **Agenda item C5**

### **Sea Angling Report**

#### **Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority** **Quarterly report for the period ending 31 March 2015**

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

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### **KEIFCA Progress**

New legislation regarding bass management and a 3 fish per day bag limit imposed by the European Commission resulted in an increase in the number of enquiries from the angling charter sector regarding how measures would affect them and how the new legislation would be enforced. This new legislation applies to all recreational fishermen from the shore and at sea. Further information and links to this new legislation has been placed on the KEIFCA website.

### **Essex Angling Summary**

While low numbers of larger cod were seen during the period, catches of codling were good to very good for anglers along the Essex coast with a relatively steady number of 2-4lb codlings from Clacton and Walton piers reported. Catches of thornback ray were also common throughout the period with catches increasing from early March onwards. A decrease in private angling boat activity occurred, as is usual, during late January and February with owners taking vessels out of the water. However, by mid-March activity began to increase again with good numbers of codling attracting attention.

### **Kent Angling Summary**

Plenty of codling were reported along the Kent coast with some anglers suggesting it was the best winter for many years for fish of 3-5lbs. However as was seen in the previous period, the number of larger cod from the shore was limited. Private and charter vessels targeting wrecks got the best results with fish in excess of 12lbs on occasion and fish over 5lb a common sight. By February the mild winter and warming waters meant that anglers could start to enjoy good numbers of dabs and other flat fish from beaches in the southern part of the district. Also seen by many shore anglers along the North Kent coast were thornback rays from early March onwards with fresh herring proving to be the best bait. The usual show of dogfish was also seen across the southern part of the district taking bait when whiting and pout weren't first to baits such as lugworm and squid. Bass started to be seen from the shore and on boats from mid March onwards with fish up to 9 lbs reported.

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