



**Agenda Item C1**  
**Shore Report - Kent**  
**Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**  
**Quarterly report for the period ending March 2015**

**Overview**

From the start of the New Year, Recreational Anglers have reported good catches of cod and Thornback ray from the shore and boats all around the Kent coast line. Despite the abundance of marketable fish in our district, the commercial fisherman have struggled due to quota restrictions. Both commercial and recreational fisherman throughout the district have expressed concerns about the new bass regulations that are coming into force to limit the catches of both parties

**Queenborough**

Commercial fishing from this port has become infrequent, with the vessels that have been fishing reporting that it has become difficult to remain viable as poor quotas are stopping them from making a living  
The vessels that target cockles from this port are in the process of carrying out refits in preparation for the new season.

**Number of vessels fishing from Queenborough: 9**

**Faversham**

Oysters and finfish have been targeted during this quarter. Quotas have been an issue in this port but selling their catch straight to the public from their own shops has enabled better prices.

**Number of vessels fishing from Faversham: 2**

## **Whitstable**

The Whitstable fisherman have been fairly active throughout this quarter. Vessels have used both trawls and gill nets to target finfish. Boats targeting oysters reported that the fishing was steady. Quotas are a constant worry, which has led to some vessels multitasking to make a living. Fishing for Whelks with pots had been slow with an increase in catches towards the end of the quarter.

**Number of vessels fishing from Whitstable: 15**

## **Herne Bay**

Commercial fishing effort has remained very low throughout this quarter. Both shore and boat anglers have been active from this port with good catches being reported.

**Number of vessels fishing from Herne Bay: 2**

## **Thanet Ports (Ramsgate/Broadstairs/Margate)**

Seals remain a constant concern for the Thanet ports with some fishermen deciding not to fish rather than catch fish that have been damaged by seals. Recreational anglers around the Thanet Coastline have enjoyed good sport both on the shore or afloat, with good catches of thornback rays and cod being caught. The commercial fishing activity from Ramsgate has been constant, with vessels using trawls and gill nets to target sole, cod, thornback ray and bass.

Vessels using pots to catch whelks have had consistent catches, whilst fisherman targeting crabs and lobsters are reporting a slow start to their season.

Quotas are again a constant issue, and concerns over the new bass byelaws have been raised

Both Broadstairs and Margate have had minimal commercial activity over this quarter.

**Number of vessels fishing from Thanet Ports: 24**

## **Deal and Walmer**

With the sprat and herring fishing finishing the fisherman are preparing their pots to start fishing for crabs and lobsters as soon as there is a rise in the sea temperature.

Recreational angling has taken place from the shore, pier and charter vessels with varying success

**Number of vessels fishing from Deal and Walmer: 5**

### **Dover**

Commercial fishing from this port has remained low key.

With several venues for shore angling being closed for repairs the focus of angling effort has been on the charter fishing boats.

**Number of vessels fishing from Dover: 2**

### **Folkestone and Hythe**

Commercial fisherman from these ports have used a variety of fishing methods this quarter to catch their quarry. Due to quota restrictions, limited trawling and gill netting has taken place. Potting for whelks recommenced this quarter with fisherman noticing an increase in the number of small whelks being discarded. Dredging for scallops happened on an infrequent basis.

**Number of vessels fishing from Folkestone and Hythe: 13**

### **Dungeness**

The unique position of Dungeness has given the fisherman working off the beach the opportunity to work two ICES areas. Two of the boats here sell their own fish directly to the public, enabling them to get better prices for their catch.

Angling, both on the shore or off a boat has been reported to have been good for this period with mixed bags of fish being caught.

**Number of vessels fishing from Dungeness: 5**

David Deverson,  
Kent Shore Officer